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ALGERIA

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO PARIS--Continuing the process of developing Franco-Algerian relations, Abdelhamid Mehdi, a senior Algerian statesman who has undertaken delicate missions for the Moroccan and Middle Eastern governments was selected as Algerian ambassador to Paris. French approval of this appointment is expected soon. Mr Mehdi is a senior member of the Algerian National Liberation Front, having participated in its founding in 1954. He served as representative of the front in Damascus from 1955 to 1958 before becoming a member of the executive coordinating committee of the National Liberation Front. He was also a member of the provisional government of the Algerian republic in 1958. He then served as foreign minister for North African affairs in 1958 and 1959. He was minister of social and cultural affairs from 1959 to 1962. He withdrew from political activity from 1962 to 1980 when he was appointed a member of the central committee of the National Liberation Front and chairman of the information and culture committee. Mehdi's appointment is an indicator not only of the progress of Franco-Algerian relations but of the style of Chadli Bendjedid in choosing his aides and representatives in the Chadli era in Algeria. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 368, 10 Mar 84)

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TRADE TIES WITH USSR STRENGTHENED; PROTOCOL SIGNED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 43, 4 Feb 84 p 80

[Article: "The New Trade Protocol Between Egypt and the Soviet Union Is Worth 500 Million Pounds"]

[Text] Crowning the continuous improvement in commercial and economic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, the second protocol on economic cooperation between the two countries was recently signed in Cairo. It is worth about 500 million pounds sterling. This compares with the first such protocol, signed in 1983, which was worth 400 million pounds sterling in trade. The signing took place during the visit of a huge Soviet delegation to Cairo. It was headed by the deputy minister of foreign trade, Ivan Greshin. This agreement is worth 25 percent more than the first one, which followed a period in which relations between the two countries was frozen for 4 years.

Via this agreement, the Soviet Union occupies a superior station on the list of Egypt's trading partners. This follows the deterioration of relations during the rule of the late president, Anwar al-Sadat, as a result of his personal decision to halt the exporting of cotton and cotton yarn to the Soviets and to stop payment of the military debts Egypt owes, which amount to \$2.5 billion.

As a result of this new agreement, the Soviet Union will absorb about 90 percent of Egypt's exports of furniture, perfume, and cosmetics, 80 percent of its exports of perfume oils, and 50 percent of its exports of cotton yarn, in addition to large quantities of cloth amounting to 15 million meters, 80,000 tons of oranges, about 25,000 tons of onions, and 10,000 tons of garlic.

As for the list of products Egypt will import from the Soviet Union, it covers a large percentage of Egypt's needs. It includes 40 percent of Egypt's needs for coal, frozen fish, and cardboard, and 46 percent of its wood, in addition to equipment, machinery, and spare parts needed by Egypt for its factories. Also included are trucks, tractors, and ploughs, in addition to medical equipment and newsprint.

However, despite this great and steady increase in the volume of trade between Egypt and the Soviet Union, the United States of America is still considered Egypt's first and basic trading partner, as it has been since winning this title from the Soviet Union at the beginning of the 1970's. The volume

of Egypt's trade with the United States is now five times greater than that of its trade with the Soviet Union. The reason is the great increase in the volume of Egyptian imports from American markets, as a result of the import facilitations given by America to Egypt. The most important such facilitation is the offering of an annual loan to Egypt of \$250 million. The money is used to finance Egyptian imports from American markets.

Nevertheless, the new commercial agreements between Egypt and the Soviet Union have contributed to a narrowing of the great discrepancy between the volume of Egypt's commerce with the United States and the volume of its commerce with the Soviet Union. They have once again returned some balance to Egypt's trade relations with the different countries of the world. They have allowed the Soviet Union to occupy an advanced position among Egypt's trading partners, after it was forced to fall to the bottom of the list of these countries during the term of the previous Egyptian president. Thus, in 1981, the volume of Egypt's trade with Israel exceeded the volume of its trade with the Soviets--a remarkable occurrence!

This new increase in the volume of commerce between the two countries comes at a time when the political and diplomatic relations between them are still marked by lassitude. At the same time, the optimistic prophecies saying that Egypt and the Soviet Union would exchange ambassadors again have subsided.

The primary and basic cause of this is the new policy adopted by Egypt's economic authorities. This policy distinguishes between economic relations and political relations. It attempts to free Egypt's economic and commercial relations with the various countries of the world from any negative effects afflicting its political and diplomatic relations with these countries. This is what used to happen in a flagrant manner in past year.

Therefore, the Egyptian economic authorities have been eager to support and push trade with the Arab nations, despite the fact that diplomatic ties with many of these countries were cut in 1979, after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

This new policy on the part of the Egyptian economic authorities has met with acceptance from those responsible for the economy and trade in the Soviet Union. Therefore, Moscow has been interested in stimulating its commerce with Egypt, despite the lax political relations. Moreover, it comes as no surprise that the recent talks held by the Soviet deputy minister of trade in the Egyptian capital have not been limited to increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. Moreover, they also included a discussion of the revival of other economic cooperation agreements between the two sides, which were in force during the 1960's and part of the 1970's. These agreements allowed Egypt to obtain a great deal of what it needed in the way of equipment, machinery, and spare parts for its factories and industries. The Soviet side has indicated that it is ready to supply the needs of Egyptian industry once again within the framework of the "economic cooperation agreements." It has asked the Egyptian side to determine what it needs from the Soviet Union so that it can be fit into the next 5-year plan, which begins in 1986.

Thus, the political stagnation between the two countries have not prevented their commercial and economic ties from flourishing once again.

SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION INVESTIGATED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 43, 4 Feb 84 p 79

[Article by Usamah Ghayth: "The Inhabitants of Cairo Lose 3 Million Hours of Work Each Day"]

[Text] The issue of waste and squandering on the levels of production and consumption in the Arab world must be reexamined and dealt with in a fundamental way. There can be no delay or postponement on the part of either official agencies or the general citizenry, especially those whose spending and lifestyle are full of exaggerated extravagance and excessive luxury.

To talk about wasting energy and available production potential is to engage in a long discussion with numerous dimensions, facets, and forms. One begins with the absence of any sense of the value of time in our private and public lives and ends by looking at the organized wasting of Arab wealth in the form of raw materials, the neglect of natural and agricultural wealth, and the low levels of production.

The true dimensions of one aspect of this waste is made clear by a group of studies recently published in Egypt. They may be a model for study and research on the level of the Arab world in the area of investigating the real magnitude of what is lost and wasted in economic activity. The estimates of lost production are no less than tens of billions of dollars, if one analyzes extant activities. That figure might rise into the hundreds of billions of dollars, if one were to analyze unexploited potential.

For example, the figures and statistics indicate that the inhabitants of Cairo lose 3 million hours a day as a result of transportation bottlenecks, crowding in the streets, difficulties in moving around, and the insufficiency of the public means of transportation. Cairo may be no extreme case in terms of the degree of crowding and population density, but it no doubt represents a good model of the other Arab countries. One can benefit from its problems in avoiding future planning problems. The problems are not limited to Cairo, which, until the beginning of the 1950's, was a flourishing capital by international standards. Rather, they extend to Alexandria, which has also begun to suffer from problems of crowding and population density as a result of the fact that insufficient attention was paid to the future dimension in planning.

The studies in Egypt confirm that waste and squandering in the production of fruits and vegetables amounts to 500 million pounds a year. These figures are important because they represent 19 percent of fruit production and about 29 percent of vegetable production in Egypt. In the end, this lost and wasted value is a loss of production and effort. It is also a problem for the consumer, who confronts rising prices that compensate for the value of what has been wasted and lost. Moreover, this lost value is reflected directly in the insufficient supply of such goods and products in the markets.

The worrisome thing about the matter is that the waste, which amounts to 500 million pounds of fruits and vegetables a year, is limited merely to that percentage which is not at all fit to be marketed and cannot possibly reach the consumer. The studies indicate that if one were to add the produce of intermediately bad degrees of quality, which is mixed in with the good produce and pushed onto the markets, then the estimates of waste and squandering would rise to three times the percentages mentioned in the studies. Thus, the value of the lost output would rise from 500 million to 1.5 billion pounds.

With respect to the level of local grain production in Egypt, the studies estimate the value of what is lost and squandered annually to be 135 million pounds. This represents 15 percent of the total value of production, which amounts to 900 million pounds in local prices. This waste is due to poor and primitive storage, as well as backwardness in the use of equipment and modern machinery in agricultural and harvesting operations. This is not to mention what is lost and squandered in the form of grain imported from abroad, which represents 70 percent of Egypt's total grain consumption. This means that more than 200 million additional pounds of waste and loss can be accounted for by grain imported from abroad.

The aspects of the picture can be completed by taking a quick look at the economic indicators for productivity. Statistics demonstrate that the productivity of each pound paid in wages to workers amounts to about 3.5 pounds of commodity output. This is not the net value, since it contains the value of the final product, which takes in all the elements and components of production. The clear meaning of these statistics is shown by the productivity indicators for some economic open door projects. In these projects, the productivity of each pound paid in wages to workers rises to about 70 Egyptian pounds. This confirms that the fault does not lie with the Arab human being, but with the systems of administration and the circumstances of employment that make up the framework within which this human being is placed. The images of productive Arabs in Western and American societies and the genuine stories of success in exile indicate the importance of the environment and circumstances of work and their positive effects on their productivity level and work.

The issues of waste, squandering, and loss in Arab economic life are in need of urgent evaluation by scientific and official agencies in every place of work and production, so that we can determine the true value of our wasted potential and capacity in all fields of economic activity. In the end, this is the correct indicator of the causes that make nations other than ours progress, while we stay behind, despite our rich history and the great civilizations we had of old.

TENSIONS RISE BETWEEN STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Campus Relations Surveyed

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2902, 12 Mar 84 pp 28-30

[Article by Karam Jabr and Yusuf Hilal: "The Silence of the Officials Has Opened the Door to Hearsay"]

[Text] The young people of the university represent force, energy, and hope, but they usually reject the logic of their elders. Some of them reject, but wait for the results of realistic experience to appear, so that they can distinguish the right opinion from the wrong one. Others insist on their own view, moving rashly to express it and announcing their opposition in a loud voice.

What is certain is that the young people of the universities--both those who are patient and those who are not--are Egypt's treasure for the present and the future. We must give them the facts, clearly and unambiguously. Their elders must exercise patience and reason in order to convince their sons, without rashly turning like them to the kind of reflexive action that necessarily leads to a departure from the correct road.

"The Editor"

In the beginning, it was a normal affair. There were student demands for the elimination of the university guard and the reform of the student code. It was expected that the student federation elected from among the mass of the students would move to achieve all that.

Then things developed.

Branch committees were set up to defend the rights of the students, and a general committee was set up on the university level. The committee members picked up the microphone and walked around calling for student demonstrations!

On 21 February, student conferences were held in the various colleges in order to celebrate the anniversary of International Student Day. However, this year's celebration was different from those in the past!

"Groups" of students appeared inside each college. During the celebration, they made certain requests:

First the university guard should be eliminated and replaced with a civil guard that would only protect the buildings.

Second the student code issued in 1979 should be reformed. A return should be made to the code of 1976 until a student conference can be held on the level of all Egyptian universities in order to issue a new code.

Things did not stop there. These students unilaterally announced the cancellation of the 1979 code and the temporary institution of the 1976 code, until the conference could be held. They formed a committee and called it the National Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the Students of the University of Cairo.

On the same day, the students of this committee made a tour of the university's campus, as the university guard watched and listened. The law students headed for the College of Humanities. They went toward the colleges of communication, economics, and political science. Then they made their way toward the College of Commerce. They advanced toward the Dar al-'Ulum College, in its new building. Then they came back, along with supporters, observers, enemies, and friends, and stopped in front of the university's main building, under the dome!

At that time in particular, it would have been useful for the university administration, with its president, deans, and professors, to move to hold an objective dialogue with all the students, respond to their objective demands, and decisively confront anyone exploiting this method in order to achieve other aims.

However, as usual, the "matter" was at first met with "silence." For example, the dean of one college refused to receive and speak with students from another college. Rumors spread among the students that should have been debunked and exposed as lies. Either that, or the university should have admitted to them and worked to deal with them.

Many stories and hearsay items spread rapidly among the students. For example, the wall magazines issued by the students of the National Committee spoke about widespread neglect in the university dormitories for women. They said that the students had no rooms, while the female director of the complex had a very large office. This bad situation led to the explosion of an electricity cable, which spread fear among the female students, who then threw themselves from the windows.

One of the magazines talked about a dean from one of the technical colleges who walks around the college with a heavy guard and a radio in his hand, taking identification cards away from the students.

As is usually the case with "silence," it was not enough to confront such a state of affairs. The result was more demonstrations, conferences, and shouts, while the university was preparing for the examination season!

Gathering Signatures

In another development, the students on the committee asked for a meeting with Dr Hasan Hamdi, the president of Cairo University, in order to present him with the demands of the "student movement." The doctor at first refused, saying: "With whom should I meet? What authority do they have to represent the students?"

The next day, the students met, carrying rosters on which they collected the signatures of some students. The number of signatures amounted to 4000. They did this to gain the right to speak with Dr Hasan Hamdi!

The students walked around the university, and their number increased noticeably. They stood shouting in front of the dome. Dr Hasan Hamdi agreed to meet with them, it being stipulated that they were normal students with demands, and did not represent legitimate channels of representation for the students of the university, who number 120,000, both men and women included.

But what happened at the meeting between this committee and Dr Hasan Hamdi?

Tariq Hasan, a member of the committee, had this to say: "The students' committee was constituted via a free and direct election. Two students were chosen in each college. They are the membership of the National Defense Committee. In the meeting with Dr Hasan Hamdi, we submitted the committee's statement to him. It contained four definite demands:

First: the cancellation of the 1979 code and the readoption of the 1976 code.

Second: the elimination of the university guard and the councils that mete out punishment for political or intellectual reasons.

Third: the establishment of freedom of expression and opinion, as well as the freedom to publish newspapers and magazines and hold councils and conferences.

Fourth: the convening of a student conference on the level of all Egyptian universities next November, in order to issue a new student code.

[Question] What was the response?

[Answer] The response was that the university rejected the principle of cancellation. However, there was something called amendment. Moreover, these demands did not fall within the purview of the university president's authority."

[Question] What is the reform?

[Answer] The president of the university said it would be possible to increase the number of students on the student council to 10, versus 7 professors. Currently, there are five students versus seven professors.

Of course, this is not what we are asking for, because it is not a matter of increasing the number of students. There are texts granting the dean and

the committee advisor the right to agree to or reject any suggestion, no matter how many back it and no matter what the will of the council may be.

Dr Hasan Hamdi denied that the university guard interfered in student activity. He also rejected the idea of establishing a conference for the university's students.

Then we asked Dr Hasan Hamdi to meet with us a second time. At this meeting, we agreed to hold a conference to approve the required directives with respect to the code and the university guard.

In addition, there is a legitimate student federation that was elected by the students. It is supposed to express their views, instead of allowing another "committee" to be set up, which is making itself into the voice of the students of the university.

[Question] What precisely are the position and role of this federation?

[Answer] After Dr Hasan Hamdi met with the "Defense Committee," the council of the Federation of University Students met with him and Dr Ibrahim al-'Adawi, the vice-president of the university and the chairman of the coordinating council for student activities.

'Amr Makram, the president of the student federation of the College of Communications, had this to say: "We announced our support for the demands announced by the committee, but we rejected its method, which does not express the views of the broad mass of students. It is possible for any group of 4000 students to meet and pressure the university administration to achieve what they want!"

"We also opposed the meeting between Dr Hasan Hamdi and the student committee. Dr Hamdi responded by saying that he met with them under the condition that they were ordinary students with problems, not a movement with leaders.

"During the meeting, we agreed to convene the councils of the federations on the level of the colleges, without professors or other supervisors, so that people would have the necessary freedom to express their opinions, on the condition that Dr Hasan Hamdi would be informed of the recommendations and decisions.

"In fact, a conference was held in the College of Communications. It was attended in the beginning by the dean of the college and his assistant. They then left and gave us the freedom to issue decisions. The conference came up with some recommendations. These are the most important ones:

Limiting the authority of the university guard to guarding only buildings

Forbidding it from interfering in any student activity

Forbidding the formation of parties within the university

Placing the money of the federation under the control of the faculty, not the students.

"In the end, the conference rejected the demonstrations, which do not express the position of 122,000 students at Cairo University. It also affirmed that requests should be submitted through the legitimate channels, which are the elected student federations."

Ahmad Salah-al-Din, the secretary of the student federation of the College of Pharmacy, had this to say: "Some students in the College of Pharmacy set up a committee and called it 'The Branch Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the Students in the College of Pharmacy.' It has five members.

"The committee asked me to issue a statement of support for it. They said that the student federations in the various colleges were issuing letters of support!"

"I refused and told them that this was not the best way to achieve our demands. Instead, we can get our rights by legitimate means. These legitimate means are the elected student federations!"

"I informed the committee that the requests it was making had already been discussed with the president of the university. He agreed to the demands before the committee was set up.

"The most important reform is increasing the number of students on the student councils, so that there will be 10 instead of 5.

"It is true that the dean does possess the authority to annul or approve any decision, but he does not interfere in such matters. He only intervenes in extreme cases!"

[Question] Why were these actions timed to take place at just this juncture, before the examinations?

[Answer] Because these students want to make use of the elections for the People's Assembly. If there were no elections, there would not be any demonstrations!

Thus, things at the university are confused. A struggle has broken out between the elected student federation and the Defense Committee, which has collected signatures and made itself into a legitimate spokesman for all the students of the university!

Instead of everyone standing up in support of just and objective demands, the demands are no longer limited to the university guard and reforming the code. Instead, they have gone beyond that to take in thorny subjects having to do with politics and political parties inside the university.

The shouts of the students affirm that the movement is a "100 percent student movement." However, before the young people of the university get carried away, we must sound the following warning:

If the students have legitimate demands, we ought to discuss them clearly before a state of utter confusion is reached. As 'Amr Makram, the president

of the student federation in the College of Communications, put it: "The Committee for the Defense of the Students has begun to polarize and absorb the legitimate federation!"

The members of the student federation from the colleges of law and archeology have resigned, as have several members from the colleges of the humanities and economics. At the College of Communications, 10 resigned and then returned!

Telegrams of support have arrived from the colleges of commerce at Banha and al-Zaqaziq, as well as from the University of al-Mansurah and the College of Engineering at Alexandria.

The decisive opinion remains in the hands of the president of the university and its deans and professors. Action must be taken before the situation is exploited by those with no connection to the university, the students, or learning, which is the university's sacred mission.

Issue of University Guard

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2902, 12 Mar 84 pp 31-34

[Article by Iqbal al-Siba'i and Jih n al-Maghribi: "The Guard and the Students!"]

[Text] Before we went to the university to learn about the role played by the university guard, we believed that its personnel were merely police officers, and that its presence at the university was necessary for the maintenance of security and safety, as well as in order to prevent strangers from being present on the university campus.

However, the picture changed when we saw how things really are. It became clear that the guard has more than one role.

While we were inside the university, we noticed that the problems confronted by the guard differ from one college to another. The theoretical colleges have a lot of daily problems in the form of fights, disturbances, etc.

At the office of the guard officer in the College of the Humanities at 'Ayn Shams, for example, we found many such problems, which he tries to solve in a friendly manner. Many male and female students were coming for the sake of special services from various government agencies, and the guard officer took care of these matters for them. This shows the guard's successful social role.

As for the technical colleges, they are blessed by a certain degree of quiet and stability. Their students have no free time for such problems.

However, there are other kinds of problems that plague the laboratories and equipment. The most important variety is theft. This means that the presence of the guard at the university is essential.

The administration of the university guard is not an independent organization that solves its problems with the power of the police. Rather, it is under the university administration. The dean of the college decides what punishment will be meted out to students in cases which call for punishment.

The Casinos of the University!

When we entered the University of 'Ayn Shams, we had to present proof of identity. This led us to ask whether all persons entering the university, including students, faculty, and employees, had to do so. The answer was that this is the only measure linked to the return of the university guard. The old guard did not do it, and this allowed outside elements onto the campus. Even if they did not come for political reasons, they were there to steal or harass the female students. Thus, the cafeterias of the university turned into another version of the public casinos.

Moreover, the gardens of the university turned into public parks, to which the public, with their food and drink, betook themselves for amusement. This did harm to the sacredness of the place, and was inconsistent with the intellectual and educational role of the university as a source emitting rays of cultural development into society.

Muhammad al-Misri, a 4th-year student in the College of Humanities at 'Ayn Shams, who knew the university before and after the return of the guard, said, "I used to feel worried and afraid because of the presence of uniformed officers and soldiers from the police at the university. In the beginning, my companions and I used to be afraid of walking in front of their offices. However, we gradually began to feel comfortable with them, after they took part with us in our university activities and accepted our invitations to attend parties.

"We grew closer, and we began to tell them about our problems, in order to get them solved. Indeed, individual guard members began to help us out with university activities. Before, when we had to depend on ourselves, we carried them out with some difficulty."

He added: "In my opinion, the presence of the guard inside the university is important because they protect the students from outsiders and destructive elements that used to get in easily. They caused various incidents to occur at the university and did great harm to young people."

He said, "Today the relationship between the guard and the students is one of friendship. It is not a relationship between a police officer and a student. Despite that, the guard plays its role in punishing those who are at fault."

Concerning the role of university security, he said, "Its personnel were employees who did not know how to act wisely, as the guard officers do. After all, they were about as old as the students. This meant that they were unable to solve the student's problems and disagreements."

Iman Samir, a 1st-year female student at the College of Humanities at 'Ayn Shams, said, "I heard about the guard before I enrolled at the university. However, I did not know exactly what its role was. When I came to the university, it happened that a male student began to harass me. I did not know that I could complain about it to the university guard, if I wanted. Thus, I was ignorant about the role the guard plays. A publication is supposed to be put out at the beginning of each year to guide the new students and explain to them the role of the guard and why it is here."

We Became Used to it As Time Passed

Tariq al-Tamimi, who graduated last year, said, "In my opinion, the guard came back in order to repair the situation at the university. Although I was a student for 3 years before they came, I rejected the state of affairs at the university. It was a place to acquire knowledge and develop one's thought, but the minds of the young people were empty of learning. Both male and female students were busy with activities having nothing to do with the sacredness of the university. These activities included listening to disco music and morally depraved songs inside the automobiles with which the grounds of the university were filled."

He added: "This year grabbed my attention. I was very pleased by the lighting of the university at night, which is being done for the first time, especially since the College of Humanities holds most of its lectures in the evening. I am also pleased by the presence of a barbed wire fence around the gardens, which keeps students from sitting there."

Fourth-year female student Iman Hasbu said, "We were not used to the presence of officers and soldiers inside the university, but as time passed we got used to them. I now feel that the university is in a better state than before, because there are only a few strangers in it."

She added: "I do not know a thing about the university guard, except that it just organizes the process of entry and exit. I ask myself: Is the university like any club, where the guard will keep me from entering if I forget my identification?

"In the 1st year of the guard's return, entry procedures were strictly observed for the students. As for the 2nd year, things became a bit more relaxed. However, we were surprised this year by the return--once again--to strictness."

As for Halah al-'Ashri, a 2nd-year female student, she said, "When I came to the university, I felt that the guard here was playing the role of "over-seer" vis-a-vis the students. If they saw any abnormal behavior, they intervened to stop it. That is, the guard's work focused on monitoring the university and preserving tranquility inside it.

"A few weeks ago, I was surprised when guards entered the hallway of one of the toilets used by female students. They arrested a group of female students smoking cigarettes. This attitude made me fear them more. Although my comrades say the guard can solve any problem, I have not dealt with them up till now."

An Unsuccessful Experiment!

After learning the views of some male and female students on the university guard, we had to record the opinions of the university officials, who demanded the return of the guard for many reasons. The most important one was the failure of the administrative security agency, which took the place of the guard, to perform the role with which it was charged.

We asked Dr Ahmad Salamah, the vice president of the University of 'Ayn Shams for student affairs, for his opinion on the return of the university guard. He said, "The university is a human concentration with a population of 150,000 composed of students, professors, and workers. In addition, it contains millions of pounds worth of laboratories, libraries, and teaching equipment.

"This concentration and financial wealth must have a guardian force, like any other society. In my view, each one of our universities holds almost as many people as one of the police force's administrative divisions.

"There are other roles which we could not find anyone to perform, such as preventing strangers from entering the university, organizing the entry process for automobiles, and breaking up the normal quarrels and fights among students. These problems continued to worsen, until it became necessary for the guard to return once again.

"Therefore, the experiment of eliminating the guard and replacing it with university security was not successful, because the security personnel could not perform this work as it has to be performed."

He added: "The decision to eliminate the guard was politically motivated. It was not a technical decision. When the students asked for the breakup of the guard, they were listened to and their request was implemented without an examination of its effects on the university.

"The guard is different from the university security agency because it consists of highly skilled technical staffs with contacts with the other agencies, such as the rescue squads and the fire department. This helps it to react quickly to the occurrence of events in the university."

[Question] Did the old guard have a different image than the new?

[Answer] I used to feel that the old guard formed solid friendships with the students. It used to try as hard as it could to solve their problems, even by ways outside the university. As for the new guard, it was dreaded when it first returned, because when we get rid of a pre-existent situation and then reestablish it, it is difficult for things to proceed as before.

However, I have begun to feel that the guard has begun to reassume a familiar air gradually. However, things are still not as they were in the past.

In my view, just as the university cannot be without students or professors, so it cannot continue without a university guard. Therefore, the guard must stay as long as the university lives.

Concentrating on Studying!

As for the dean of the College of Humanities at 'Ayn Shams, Dr Ramadan 'Abd-al-Tawwab, he welcomed the return of the university guard, although he did not take part in the decision to have it come back.

He said, "When the guard was removed at the start of the 1970's, university security took its place. Its role changed from one of security to one of mere individuals who passed on everything that happened anywhere in the university in a distorted and untrue form, especially since they wore no uniforms. In my opinion this is one of the reasons for bringing back the university guard. It is the right way to preserve security inside a large institution like the university."

He added: "After the university was deprived of the guard for 9 years, suspicious elements crept in among the students in order to stir them up. The university made attempts to confront these currents. Moreover, the deans of the colleges had to take care of the daily problems of the students, which the guard now solves and reports on later, if it is necessary. This has alleviated the burden borne by the deans and allowed us to concentrate completely on the academic aspect of our work."

With regard to explaining the role of the university guard to new students, Dr 'Abd-al-Tawwab said, "At the beginning of each academic year, a meeting is held at which the new students and the members of the faculty get to know each other. The guards of the college are also there, and each one is introduced, along with his role. In other words, I think the continued presence of the university guard is a necessity. There are many kinds of students, and some of them need to have their behavior corrected and guided. I cannot do that alone.

Social, Not Like Police

After speaking with the students and university officials, we still had to ask the guardsmen themselves about the role they play. We asked if they faced difficulties or problems, and how the university had received them after their return.

Major General Munir Mahisi, the administrator of the university guard, said, "Our role is to provide a suitable atmosphere for the members of the faculty, so that they can educate the students, and for the students, so they can absorb this knowledge. If there were no true need for the university guard, the universities of the world would not have adopted such organizations."

He said, "Our role is social, not police-related. We help the students by performing some services they need, such as getting passports, driver's licenses, and personal identity cards, in addition to sports activities."

With regard to the security aspect of the guard's work, he said, "The society of the university must be limited to those who belong there. Strangers have no place inside the university. In this way, we provide the students with security and safety.

The president of the university has primary responsibility for applying the law. The same is true of the college deans. They do so in coordination with the command of the university guard, in order to perform their mission in the service of society."

[Question] What is the difference between the guard and university security?

[Answer] It is a complementary mission. The role of university security can be seen--for example--in the university's dormitories. The students living there need a senior civilian officer who is capable of solving problems and disputes. There is complete coordination between the guard and university security.

As for Major General Marsa 'Aqabah, the head of the university guard at the University of Cairo, he said, "The role of the guard is clear and well known: to secure the university and protect it against theft, sabotage, fire, or any kind of aggression.

"The new guard is more advanced in terms of the degree of its education and knowledge and the way in which it deals with the students, faculty, and those who come to the university regularly."

[Question] What do you think about the return of the guard?

[Answer] The guard came back because there was a need for integration at the university. In terms of study, knowledge, and psychological fitness, the security personnel were not qualified to perform the role of protection. There was some negligence as a result of incompetence. Now they have been annexed to us, and they do certain tasks under the supervision of the guard.

An officer of the guard must be patient and treat people well. He must have a good relationship with all the agencies in the state, in order to facilitate the fulfillment of the needs of the students and the faculty members for things like licenses, etc.

There is coordination between us and the other agencies outside the university. This means that what the guard wants gets done quickly.

As for the new things that the guard has brought to the university, Brigadier General Dr Sharif Isma'il, the guard's representative at 'Ayn Shams, had this to say on the subject, "The organization of entry to the university via inspection of identification cards was applied for the first time after the guard returned to the university. This system was not enforced in the past. Its application has been largely successful. Today, only the students are in the university."

He added: "I was a member of the university guard before it was eliminated, and I returned to the university with the guard. After we had been away for 9 years, I discovered that the problems had increased because of the guard's absence. Although the problems are no different, the increase in the number of students--there are now 120,000 of them--has helped to increase these problems and make them apparent. The problems consist of friction among the students,

or crowding in the lecture halls because of the large number of students. I believe that the biggest problem consists of students coming to the university without identification and then trying to get in."

Lt Col Hashim Ibrahim, the official in charge of military instruction at the University of 'Ayn Shams, who was with the guard before it was eliminated and has been with it since its return, said, "When the guard was gone, the behavior of the students was often at odds with university behavior. The cafeterias were full of strangers from outside the university. Numerous acts of theft occurred.

"Therefore, the worst period the university has experienced was that of the guard's absence, in which moral decay and negligence were predominant."

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CSO: 4504/225

POLICIES OF COPTIC PATRIARCH SHINUDA CRITICIZED

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic No 659, 21 Feb; No 660, 28 Feb 84

[21 Feb 84 pp 32, 33]

[Text] New information in an official report accuses Archbishop **Shanudah of involvement in sectarian sedition and reviving the old jingoism about Egypt being a Coptic country and Muslims being aliens and invaders.**

What is behind those voices calling for the return of Archbishop Shinuda to his position?

The defense in al-Jihad case, which is now being heard by the State Supreme Security Court in Egypt, presented a grave document in court which accuses Archbishop **Shanudah III, the patriarch of Orthodox Copts of involvement in stirring up sectarian sedition between Muslims and Christians.** This document accuses the archbishop of involvement in sectarian sedition since he became archbishop and until his removal from that position in September 1981 when he was placed under house arrest. This document contains accusations that would, if true and if taken to court, subject Archbishop Shanudah to the death penalty. The document was prepared by Egyptian security officials before September 1981. It was distributed to senior leaders of the ruling party, and it was classified "top secret." Now that these facts have been released by an official agency, is it possible for us to see that dangerous priest assume the position of archbishop once again? If so, how? This is merely a question.

The document states, and we quote: "Ever since Archbishop Shanudah became the religious leader of Orthodox Copts in 1971, it was noticed that something was not quite right with Christian sectarian activity. It was set on a course that would stir up the destructive spirit of sectarian sedition; it was set on a course that would damage national unity which is indispensable for the political, economic and social stability of Egypt."

Archbishop Shanudah tried hard to consolidate his absolute control on the church by appointing his supporters bishops in the governorates, thereby violating church laws. He was thereby trying to create what would seem to be support for his leadership so he can set himself up as the guardian of Egypt's different Coptic sects. His aim was to claim to be the religious and political leader of a sect that had its own entity and was subject to his directions. He wanted to use

that as a weapon to apply pressure to officials so he can achieve private ends. It was suggested that these private ends were decisions to deny [privileges to] clergymen who occasionally opposed his policy.

The archbishop did not hesitate to assume some positions and to engage in [questionable] modes of conduct despite the fact that he knew for certain the extent to which such conduct would affect the general Islamic sensibilities of the majority of citizens. His sole concern was to use illegal ways to highlight the existence of Christians regardless of the results that may produce and regardless of the damage it may cause to citizens' interests. Such effects actually emerged in the fact that Archbishop **Shanudah's policy resulted in a kind of challenge to Islam**. In fact, extremist Islamic groups adopted his method as a premise they used to influence the thoughts of young people in the context of their movement to recruit members under their proclaimed slogan of Islam being subjected to a new crusade. That slogan was based on the fact that the positions of Archbishop Shinuda constituted a direct threat to Islam and that young Muslims must therefore be called upon to be vigilant and to gather together in organized groups that assume positions of defending Islam.

If one wants to underscore the general principles upon which Archbishop **Shanudah's** policy was based, one may summarize them as follows:

--An attempt to ordain the independence of the church and its organizations--the Clerical Synod of the Coptic Church and the General Religious Court--from the state and its constitutional institutions.

--An effort to ascribe a political character to the office of patriarch.

--Sectarian jingoism was to be stirred up among Christians by suggesting that Egypt was a Coptic country and that Muslims were aliens and invaders. For this reason the archbishop was devoting attention to teaching the Coptic language in churches and to the publication of some of these lessons in **AL-KARAZAH Magazine** which he edits. (Al-Sadat suspended publication of that magazine in September).

--Challenges to existing laws were to be attempted and a de facto policy was to be prescribed by building churches without following due procedures suggested by the law and by holding religious services at various locations without obtaining permits to do so. Such permits are required by the "imperial course" which regulates the matter of conducting religious services for non-Muslims.

--A number of colleges of theology **are to be established illegally to teach Christianity**. The aim of that was to sow the seed for a Christian university comparable to al-Azhar University.

--The monasteries in the area of Wadi al-Natrun in particular were to be expanded and overseers at those monasteries were to be encouraged to encroach upon adjacent state property for the purpose of turning the area into a Christian colony in the future.

--Church organizations, particularly the Clerical Synod, were to be utilized to establish the notion that Copts were being persecuted. Articles to that effect were to be published in **AL-KARAZAH Magazine**.

--Resolutions and recommendations were to be issued calling for the implementation of some sectarian demands, and a hunger strike was to be declared to apply pressure to officials.

--Hatred for the ruling regime was to be incited and the feelings of Muslims were to be provoked by objecting to the constitutional provision that Islam is the state religion and that Islamic law is the principal source for legislation.

--Sunday schools, which are under the direct supervision of Archbishop Shanudah, were to be utilized to teach religious subjects that would sow the seeds of resentment and hatred in the hearts of young Christians against Muslims and officials.

--Disputes between individuals and ordinary events that arise between Muslim citizens and Christian citizens in the context of ordinary daily relations were to be utilized to describe such a situation in terms of a sectarian struggle between Islam and Christianity.

--Confrontations with the authorities were to be created at critical times the country was experiencing.

--Channels of communication between the Egyptian church and Coptic communities abroad were to be strengthened in an attempt to utilize those communities as a tool to exert pressure on world public opinion so that action can be taken to embarrass officials in Egypt and force them to implement sectarian demands.

--Provocative measures were to be pursued by publishing bulletins, books and recorded tapes that disparage Islam by citing some verses of the Koran out of context and using church bells and loudspeakers to drown out the Muslims' religious rites of worship.

A Record of Incidents!

--Archbishop Shanudah took action to carry out his plans which were formalized in the forementioned principles. He carried out numerous acts, which may be summarized as follows:

--On 10 July 1972 he met with the priests of Alexandria. At that meeting he spoke about the persecution of Christians by Muslims, and he called for action to apply pressure on the government. He said it was necessary to contact representatives of other Christian denominations in cities to ensure their sympathy and support.

--On 17 July 1982 the archbishop invited the priests of Alexandria to a general conference to study the problems of the sect. He had refused to comply with the Ministry of Interior's request to postpone that meeting because evident circumstances at that time made it likely that such a meeting might damage public security. The problems of the sect were nothing more than the archbishop's claim that imams of mosques in Alexandria were attacking in their speeches Priest (Abshaway) Kamil, pastor of Saint Jirjis Church in Alexandria.

--On 11 November 1972 after a fire broke out at the Society of the Friends of the Holy Book in al-Khankah, the archbishop held a meeting for the priests of

Cairo at which he ordered the priests to go to the society and pray there despite the fact that there is a decree against conducting religious services at such societies. When the priests expressed their opinion on that matter, he told them this was something that had to be done. He urged them to go to the society and to lie on the floor there if accosted. Then in order to appear to be detached from the events, Archbishop Shanudah left Cairo and went to the monastery of Bishop Bishuy. After returning to Cairo he convened a meeting of the Clerical Synod and declared a hunger strike and [a period of] mourning to protest the fire incident.

--On 13 November 1972 Archbishop Shanudah delivered a speech at the Cathedral of St Mark in al-'Abbasiyah condemning the fire at the al-Khankah Society. In doing so he emphasized the persecution of Copts.

--He utilized the smuggling cases in which Raflah Gharbawi, Sadiq Ghabur and others are defendants, and he held a meeting with some Sunday school officials in March of 1983. At those meetings he urged those officials to spread rumors in churches alleging that these cases were merely sectarian cases intended to discredit Christians.

--In August 1973 Archbishop Shanudah met with the editorial staff of AL-KARAZAH Magazine at al-Sarayan Monastery, and he asked that the aim of the magazine should be to revive the sectarian character of Copts and the Coptic language. He thought the magazine should emphasize the problems of Copts on its pages.

--In January 1975 he set up classes to teach the Coptic language at the church of Bishop Ruways in al-'Abbasiyah, and he issued orders to numerous churches to set up such classes for the purpose of strengthening the sectarian entity of Copts and reinforcing the old jingoistic attitude that Egypt was Coptic and that Muslims were aliens and conquerors.

--On 24 February 1975 the archbishop chaired a meeting of the religious court for Orthodox Copts where he and a legal quorum of the court decided to look into the Autonomy Law and request that Copts be represented in local councils in certain ratios. They also decided to look into the Personal Status Law and to lobby for the implementation of the contractual doctrine instead of the application of Islamic law in cases where parties of different religions were involved. Then the archbishop decided to send letters to state officials asking for a large numerical representation of Copts in the Socialist Union, claiming that the number of Copts in Egypt exceeded significantly their number as established in official state statistics.

--To justify the previous demands he met with church parishioners in Alexandria on 19 July 1975 and asked them to count the number of Christians in the city. He charged Bishop (Beaman), who was general bishop at that time, to go to the parishes of the republic and conduct a similar census taking of Christians [in the country].

--In September 1975 the archbishop issued orders to the churches not to celebrate the Coptic New Year's Day. Then he delivered an address after his weekly sermon in which he referred to the great sorrow of the church. He did not, however, reveal the reason for that sorrow. After that Sunday school teachers talked about

rumors that the reason for the sorrow was the predicament in which Copts were finding themselves as a result of being persecuted by Muslims and as a result of the fact that the president had refused to meet with Archbishop Shanudah more than once.

--On 5 January 1977 the archbishop held a meeting for the priests of Cairo at the Cathedral for Orthodox Copts in al-'Abbasiyah. At that meeting he ordered priests to complete their draft of the Uniform Personal Status Law for Christian sects quickly so it can be presented to the legislative authorities and passed before a draft of the Personal Status Law for Muslims was completed.

[28 Feb 84 pp 36, 37]

[Text] Shanudah threatens bloodshed all over the country if his demands are not met.

In the past issue we published the first part of the grave document that was prepared by Egyptian security agencies on the role of Archbishop Shanudah is stirring up sectarian sedition between Muslims and Copts in Egypt. [The document alleges that the archbishop was involved in such activities] ever since he became the patriarch of Orthodox Copts in 1971 until he was removed from that position in September 1971 and placed under house arrest.

In this issue we publish the second part of that document which makes serious charges against Archbishop Shanudah for which the penalty is death. Is it possible for us after that to see this priest as the patriarch of Orthodox Copts in Egypt? This is merely a question.

The document states that: On 11 January 1977 the archbishop met with the priests of al-Minufiyah Governorate and urged them to make members of the sect aware of the fact that their progeny should be increased. He asked them to encourage young people to marry on the basis of the fact that Egypt was originally a Coptic country that was colonized by Muslims. As a result of that Islam became the official state religion, and that was based on conquest and occupation. The archbishop said that although Christians had yielded to the fact that they had been conquered, the constitution should have stipulated that both Christianity and Islam were official state religions. He directed those attending the meeting to devote attention to converting people to Christianity, to participate in political conferences and to frequent popular and governmental sites to prove the power of the Christian presence.

--In August 1977 because of what was mentioned in newspapers about the application of the Apostasy Law, the archbishop chaired several meetings for the priests of Cairo, for Christian jurists and for members of church councils. These meetings were held to consider the effects of that law on Christians and to take action through blocs of Christians to make officials aware of the fact that this law was objectionable.

On 31 August 1977 it was claimed that the archbishop had chaired the Clerical Synod and had decided to submit a memorandum to the president. That memorandum was to include the Christian sects' objections to the application of Islamic law and the Apostasy Law. At that meeting Archbishop Shanudah proposed that members of

the synod stage a march in which they and members of the sect would march to the presidential palace, to foreign embassies and news agencies to express their dismay with the fact that Christians were being persecuted by Muslims who have the support of officials in the state. However, the synod postponed a decision on **Archbishop Shanudah's suggestion, awaiting the results of a meeting that was to take place at that time between the president and representatives of the synod.**

--On 11 September 1977 the archbishop met with members of the councils of Cairo's churches and a number of bishops, and he decided to go on a hunger strike to express his objection to the proposed Apostasy Law.

--Immediately after that the archbishop tried to raise doubts about the Koran. He delivered a lecture at the Cathedral of St Mark in al-'Abbasiyah entitled, "The Bible of St Barnabas and Its Contradictions with the Koran." He cited verses from the Koran that were taken out of context, and he cited some opinions by scholars to point out the contradictions between that version of the Bible and the Koran. His aim was to create doubts among Muslims about the authenticity of that Bible since it was the only Bible to herald the advent of the Muslims' prophet.

--He utilized the assassination of the Reverend Gabriel 'Abd-al-Mutajalli, pastor of al-Tawfiqiyah Church in al-Minya on 3 September 1978 and suggested to the patriarchal legate in Alexandria that conferences were to be held to stir up members of the sect and charge their feelings by casting doubts about the neutrality of the police and investigating authorities. All that coincided with the Camp David talks. The archbishop's imagination led him to believe that these circumstances would force officials to comply with the Copts' sectarian demands.

--He prodded the council of the Church of St Jirjis in Abu Za'bal--and this is a church which has not been licensed--to place a cross and a bell on top of the church as a kind of a policy of determining an accomplished fact. When this aroused the feelings of some Muslims and Christians became apprehensive about a confrontation with Muslims, members of the church council staged fires on 3 October 1978 in the homes of two members of the sect and a Muslim. Their aim was to apply pressure to officials to make them carry out their demands and provide them with protection that would enable them to place the cross and the bell on top of the church. However, the plot was discovered, and the Christian defendants confessed their crime in the course of the prosecution's investigations.

--On 20 February 1979 the archbishop held a meeting of the Clerical Synod to discuss the Uniform Personal Status Law for Christian sects. He tried to suggest that Copts of different sects were in agreement on this law and that that should assure officials in the state that there were no disputes on doctrine among the various Christian sects. The archbishop believed that in doing so he would force officials to go along with him to avoid a confrontation with all the Christian sects--the Orthodox, the Catholics and the Anglicans--as one front. The archbishop believed officials would not want such a confrontation especially since both the Catholic and the Anglican churches were worldwide churches with strong influence on world public opinion.

--The archbishop delivered a number of lectures at the Cathedral of St Mark entitled, "The Trinity and the Unity." He cited a few verses from the Koran that were

quoted out of context and quoted incompletely to discredit Islam. That encouraged a few other Christian sects to follow his example.

--On 28 October 1979 he suggested to the patriarchal legate in Alexandria that a general conference be called in Alexandria on 1 November 1979 to discuss amending Article Two of the Constitution which stipulates that Islamic law is the principal source for legislation. The conference was to show that Christians rejected that notion. Then in October of the same year the archbishop sent some of his aides to Cyprus to mobilize foreign public opinion against the authorities and the regime in Egypt and to plead with Coptic communities and foreign Coptic organizations to intervene by applying pressure to Egypt to prevent the application of Islamic law.

--On 4 November 1979 the archbishop prepared a memorandum that included objections to the application of Islamic law. He blamed the patriarchal legate in Alexandria for postponing the forementioned conference, and he charged him with the task of calling a conference with members of the subordinate religious courts on 7 November 1979 to declare the opinions of Copts on the matter before the constitutional amendment comes up before the People's Assembly.

--On 7 November 1979 the meeting that Archbishop Shanudah had called for was held in the Cathedral of St Mark. It was attended by some pastors, by members of the General Religious Court and by 100 members of the secondary religious courts. The meeting was held to discuss proposals on amending Article Two of the constitution by claiming that application of Islamic law would pose a threat to the future of Copts in Egypt. The conferees argued that measures had to be taken to protect the interests of Copts. All this was done despite the fact that the archbishop had already discussed this matter with state officials and had been assured by them that members of Christian sects would not be harmed. Members of Christian sects have all the constitutional rights that good citizens have. The archbishop was told that the explanatory memorandum [accompanying] the amendment would include references to the fact that there was no contradiction between the application of Islamic law and Coptic laws. Those at the meeting found themselves in a position of not being able to object to the promises that were made by officials. However, Archbishop Shanudah was not persuaded by what had transpired at that meeting. On the following day he met with leaders of Christian sects and representatives of foreign Catholic churches at the official residence of the archbishop to discuss that subject which had to do with amending Article Two of the constitution. He issued his instructions to the parish of Sawhaj to charge lawyers who are members of the sect to write memoranda objecting to that amendment.

--As a means of applying pressure to officials and stirring up the feelings of Christians, he announced that he would stay at the monastery of Bishop Bishuy in Wadi al-Natrun, and he declined to celebrate the anniversary of his becoming the Coptic patriarch, which was to be held on 14 November 1979.

--At the end of December 1979 he discussed the subject of amending Article Two of the constitution with a few bishops at the monastery of Bishop (Bishuy), and he indicated that he had asked officials to make a few amendments to the forementioned Article Two. He said that he then had threatened that there would be bloodshed all over the country if his demands were not met.

--On 18 March 1980 three Christian students were attacked on the campus of the University of Alexandria. Archbishop **Shanudah quickly took advantage of that incident** and induced the patriarchal legate at Alexandria to hold meetings with Christian students to charge their feelings and to stir them up against Muslims and against officials. Then he called a meeting of the Clerical Synod, issued a decree that Easter would not be celebrated and turned down all good wishes from officials. That action coincided with the president's visit to the United States. Archbishop **Shanudah tried to urge Coptic organizations and Coptic communities** abroad to assume hostile positions during that visit to let officials know that his positions could have an effect in bringing pressure to bear on Egypt.

--In 1981 the archbishop refused to take part in welcoming the president as tradition dictated. He also refused to attend public celebrations to which he was invited in his religious capacity. This was an attempt on his part to provoke members of the sect and promote rumors that security agencies were preventing him from taking part in these social functions.

--On the basis of his previous allegations the archbishop continued to leak false rumors to expatriate members of the sect living in the United States, in Canada and in Australia. To cast doubts about stability in the country he claimed that attacks against Christians in Egypt were on the rise, and he encouraged Copts to stir up world public opinion to discredit Egypt's reputation abroad. These attempts were fruitful. Articles focusing on that subject appeared in a few foreign Coptic newspapers. The archbishop knows quite well about the link between Coptic organizations abroad and certain political ideas which advocate turning the Middle East into an area of small religious states. That would undermine the political entity of the countries of the region. (Copies of these magazines and publications are attached).

--The archbishop encouraged Christians to arm themselves with the necessary weapons and to store those weapons to oppose what he claimed was the determination of Muslims to attack them. That was one of the most obvious reasons for the incident at al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' in June 1981. That incident began when a Christian fired on a number of Muslims while they were praying at sunset. That angered the Muslims and seriously exacerbated the situation. When official agencies succeeded in containing the incident, Archbishop **Shanudah proceeded to publicize rumors** suggesting that it was the government that had planned that incident to weaken Christians. He even advised his supporters to print articles to that effect in the Christian newspaper, WATANI. (Copies of these articles are attached).

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CSO: 4504/209

SPECIAL PROGRAM CREATES NEW JOBS

Rabat ALMAGHRIB in French 19-20 Feb 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Special program set up for job promotion: 25,000 jobs will be created within the next 5 months. Preliminary information on the projects given priorities in the provinces.

As early as Thursday, some provinces began implementing the special job promotion program announced a week ago. Prodded by this beginning, some regions were lead to define the projects to be given priority.

Thus, the governor of Tangier Province, Abdellatif Bouab, presided on Friday over the meeting of the Provincial Technical Coordination Committee held at the Marshan Palace; attending were the chairmen of the communal councils, local civilian and military authorities and officials of the provincial administrative services.

The governor first reminded his audience about the duties and role of that committee in coordinating administrative and technical activities aimed at the province's socio-economic development.

He then indicated that Tangier Province had received credits amounting to 14 million DH [dirham] as part of the special job promotion program.

These credits will be used as a financial cover for a vast program of urban and rural projects, socio-economic in nature, formulated in record time thanks to the public spirit and availability of officials from the various administrative and technical services of that province.

The following projects were given priority: supplying drinking water, building sewers and roads and removing slums.

The goal of this operation is to use the unemployed in socio-economic promotion projects which will enable low-income families to increase their buying power.

Recruiting will be based on the results of the latest social census and will be supervised by local authorities in collaboration with communal councils.

The governor added that the full amount of the credits allocated to this operation will be used to pay the workers and that communal budgets were able to provide additional funds amounting to 400 million centimes for the purchase of equipment.

This program will have to be completed in full by next July.

To this end, he urged the elect and officials of the provincial administration to double their efforts in order to carry out under the best possible conditions, as per the directives of His Majesty the King, the totality of the projects chosen for this job promotion program.

Next on the agenda was the review of the socio-economic projects to be inaugurated or begun as part of the commemorative celebrations of the Throne Festival.

Béni-Mellal: A Good Start

There was an identical meeting at the seat of the Béni-Mellal Province where, on Thursday, Abdelkrim Laaroussi presided over a work group assigned to review the issues pertaining to the job promotion and the program set up to that effect.

At the beginning of the meeting, the governor presented a report in which he described the resources made available by His Majesty King Hassan II's government for the fight against the effect of the drought and, particularly, the opening of work sites which will create jobs for low-income citizens.

He indicated that, for this operation which is part of the National Promotion program, the government of His Majesty the King allocated funds to be used for projects beneficial to the residents of the province.

During that meeting, the decision was reached to open 62 work sites in several of the province's communes and douars; they will provide jobs for 2,907 workers.

These work sites will be engaged in opening roads, reforestation operations, surfacing roadways and sanitation campaigns.

The kick-off for this operation in that province took place on Thursday.

Khouribga: A Special Administrative Commission

On Thursday, a meeting was held at the seat of the Khouribga Province, presided over by the governor; also attending were his close assistants, some elect, local authorities, provincial service chiefs and representatives of professional committees.

At the beginning of the meeting, Tricha recalled the broad lines of His Majesty King Hassan II's speech dealing with the census of low-income families. He specified that, in view of the census' results, the government of His Majesty the King had decided to launch a vast job promotion operation in all of the province's communes.

Special funds will be used to launch this operation which is aimed, as part of the National Promotion Program, at improving the situation of low-income families.

He also indicated that projects approved as part of this operation will be added to the other projects incurred on other budgets.

The implementation of this large-scale operation will be done with everybody's collaboration. A specialized provincial commission will supervise the administration and implementation of the various work sites.

Guelmim: Projects Dealing With The Domestication Of Water

On Friday, the governor of Guelmin Province held a meeting aimed at putting the final touch to the first phase of the province's national job promotion operation, part of the fight against the effects of the drought.

The governor took this opportunity to declare that this operation would make the implementation of several development projects possible and open new job prospects for the region's low-income residents.

He announced that this operation will be involved with the opening of roads and irrigation canals and the building of water reservoirs.

Safi: A Monthly Budget of 435,000,000 Centimes

On Friday afternoon, the governor of Safi Province presided over an extended meeting aimed at reviewing the job promotion program which came into effect on the 16th of this month.

He took this opportunity to stress that, on the basis of the results of the latest census of low-income households, the government of His Majesty the King decided to begin a large-scale job promotion program affecting the Kingdom's various regions, for the purpose of improving the material situation of needy families. He indicated that, as part of this program, the Safi Province had been granted a monthly budget of 4,357,266.04 million centimes. The governor added that these funds, allocated exclusively for this special program, are not drawn from either the National Promotion budget or from credits of the Local Collectivities Fund.

After stressing that this budget is earmarked for the development of the communes' economic and social structures and job promotion, he urged local authorities, the elect and officials of the National Promotion institutions to organize themselves in order to assist low-income residents by supervising the smooth operation of the 95 work sites to be launched on this occasion in the Safi Province.

The governor then declared that these work sites, the first phase of this program, would create 6,000 for a 5-month period.

UNEMPLOYMENT, MIGRATION TO ARAB EAST EXAMINED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 368, 10 Mar 84 pp 49-50

[Article: "313,000 are Unemployed and Migration to the Arab East Is Insufficient"]

[Text] The working paper prepared by the secretariat of economic affairs for discussion in the economics and social council is a survey of the manpower situation, unemployment, and migration in the Arab countries. The Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait participated in the writing of the paper. We present here the most salient points made in this paper concerning Morocco, relying on three sources: statistics department of the Moroccan Ministry of Planning, Arab Employment Organization, and Plan for Economic and Social Development.

A study done by the statistics department of the Moroccan Ministry of Planning, Cadre Training, and Vocational Training revealed that the number of unemployed rose from about 197,000 in 1978 to 313,000 in 1982. This means that the level of unemployment or the ratio of unemployed to employed persons rose from 9 percent (1978) to 11.5 percent (1982). Unemployed persons with no previous work experience form a high percentage of the total unemployed. It appears this percentage seems to be steadily increasing, even though by low averages which range between 47 to 57 and 30 to 36 percent females and males, respectively. The unemployed seeking work for the first time constitute about 40 percent of the total unemployed of both sexes.

Completed in the second half of 1983, the study shows that among the unemployed are individuals engaged in intermittent, marginal, and nonessential activities, but they say they are unemployed. However, they constitute less than 20 percent of all the unemployed annually. Disregarding this group, there remain about 250,000 unemployed at least in urban areas of Morocco who want and seek work. Among them are about 150,000 who worked before. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that they have some experience and practical training. As for the new unemployed, 80 percent of them are young people under 25 years of age.

The results of the Moroccan studies suggest that the level of unemployment among women is rising rapidly. Despite the fact that the 1981-1985 five-year plan aims at creating about 194,000 jobs in urban areas, about three-fourths of them have been reserved for men. If increasing opportunities for work are

found for them in the Arab East, the reduction of unemployment among women will become possible.

In any case, Morocco with its 20 million population is suffering, given the levels of rapid demographic growth, from increasing unemployment since about 250,000 persons of working age enter the urban and rural labor market annually. The current capacity and trends of the economy will be able to absorb only a fraction of the young people seeking productive work.

The study prepared by the Arab Employment Organization emphasized the existence of young persons unable to qualify as supervisory cadres. This calls for a review of educational and training policies so that graduates are not produced whose qualifications do not match the needs of the labor market. It is apparent that the Economics and Social Development Plan was clearly unaware of this. Accordingly, the various ministries concerned with cadre and vocational training will undertake to supply the labor market with about 132,000 supervisory personnel distributed during the course of the present plan as follows: 10,371 cadres and 43,816 assistant supervisors, 49,424 qualified assistants, and 38,639 specialized assistants, that is a total of 131,879 supervisors and assistants.

They are in addition to about 233,000 young persons who will benefit from direction in "vocational familiarization," especially students of schools of the first and second intermediate levels. They will form a group known as not fully qualified assistants.

The study asked Morocco, within the framework of Arab cooperation in human exchange, not only to work to meet its own needs with respect to technical and skilled workers but to produce beyond its requirements for the needs of the Arab countries that import workers. However, while waiting for this to happen, it is necessary to take advantage of the excess semiskilled and ordinary workers in Morocco and of the excess graduates of academic schools and some technical institutes.

In this connection, bilateral treaties were signed with Qatar (March 1981), Iraq (May 1981), and the United Arab Emirates (December 1981). In 1983, agreements were signed with Jordan and Libya.

Workers in the Arab Countries

Morocco was also able to increase the number of workers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. However, this will require supporting the employment agencies and developing them, especially by keeping them well-informed about the unemployed, their qualifications and willingness to migrate, and about the special measures taken to choose the migrants and direct them to the Eastern Arab countries. This will require registering all the unemployed individuals desirous of migrating with their occupational and family particulars and addresses and furnishing the central employment offices with this data.

If the heads of the employment offices make regular visits to the organizations existing in the region of their jurisdiction to encourage them on the

necessity to offer work for the unemployed registered in their offices, it would be possible for them or for officials in the central employment office to make regular visits to the Arab countries that receive workers, learn the needs of both the private and the public sectors for every occupation and specialty, and endeavor to sign work contracts for the Moroccan unemployed who are registered with the emigration registration offices.

Morocco is indeed making efforts to encourage migration, which is considered an important means of dealing with unemployment. A total of 14,702 contracts were signed in 1982. However, 7,345 or more than one-half of the workers involved went to France while Iraq received 4,447 and 1,867 went to Saudi Arabia. There are estimated to be at least 5,000 Moroccans now in Saudi Arabia, a small number compared with the total number of workers coming to Saudi Arabia, about 3 million persons, at the end of 1983.

As for Kuwait, there are no meaningful statistics on the number of Moroccan workers. In 1982, there were job openings for only 85 Moroccans among more than 93,000 jobs available. Arab arrivals accounted for about 40,000. It should be noted that during 1982 only 33 Moroccan newcomers obtained work permits in Kuwait for the first time, while 32 quit or finished their contracts. This means there was a net gain of just one Moroccan for that year.

Role of Joint Projects

The above figures indicate that the total number of Moroccans in the East is still small (less than 10,000) while about 350,000 Moroccan workers are estimated to be in Europe. But the migration to Europe in general and to France in particular seems to have slowed greatly in recent years because of the economic crisis afflicting these countries. However, the desire of some Arab countries to use Moroccan manpower in the field of economic development suggests that these countries are in a position to receive large number of Moroccans.

It must be pointed out that migration to the Arab East from Morocco is now facing many difficulties such as geographic distance, high cost of migration, and the difference in working and living conditions between Morocco and the Gulf states. Despite the efforts being made to overcome these problems, for example, sharp reduction in travel costs and concluding of bilateral contracts with some countries, the number of persons who may migrate is likely to be limited and, consequently, its effect on reducing the number of employed will remain marginal. It appears, therefore, that the large-scale migration of capital, especially for the creation of joint Arab projects, may contribute more effectively to solving the unemployment problem in Morocco, which is distinguished by its huge manpower and diverse natural resources. This will permit capital to interact with labor and other elements of production.

5214

CSO: 4504/223

GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF PRIVATE COMPANIES PROBED

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic No 832, 7 Mar 84 p 9

[Article: "What Is the Meaning of the Demand by the Private Companies for the Remainder of the Value of the Shares?"]

[Text] When the National Assembly raised the issue of the situation of the private corporations and demanded that the government submit a report on them, their financial situation, and the excesses committed by some members of their boards of directors, the government formed a commission with members from several ministries in order to investigate the companies' situation. At that time, the assembly believed that this commission would issue a report on its activities. It was the commission that worked for a long time so that the assembly would adopt a decision or recommendation on the violations and excesses that occurred in these companies that would be binding on the government. However, the assembly did not get that far. It left the matter in the hands of the government. The minister of commerce announced that the excesses committed by a number of the presidents of the companies would be discussed in their own general meetings. Moreover, the assembly did not demand to see a budget showing the current state of the private companies and the extent to which they had been influenced by the illegal practices of some members of their boards of directors. By means of this pretense, which has been repeated by the government and concerns the aforementioned, the situation of these companies is being investigated in their general meetings. The government has been able to withdraw the entire matter from the assembly and return it to the private companies, although these excesses are considered violations of the state's law. Their investigation is a matter for these companies and the state, as represented by the Ministry of Commerce. This matter is not considered private or something falling within the authority of the boards of directors of those companies, as the government has claimed.

The government has attained this result and the matter has been closed in the assembly without even a serious financial investigation being conducted into the situation of the companies.

The citizens have been surprised by the announcements issued by some private companies, which are demanding that the founders pay the remaining value of the shares to which they subscribed when the firms were established. In doing so, they have been taking advantage of the commercial law, which

allows boards of directors to call in the shares of founding capital whenever they deem it necessary. In addition, the founders are legally obligated to pay in the remaining portions of their subscriptions, without any right of concession to other parties.

As all of us know, one of the appeals for founding the private companies in the days of Suq al-Manakh was the resale of stock right after founding, without any consideration being given to the law saying such sales could only be made 3 years after founding. Successive concessions of such stock took place. There are members on the boards of directors of those companies who sold their shares of the subscription without having paid anything for the subscription.

Similarly, all of us know what has been reported in the dailies: Many members of boards of directors have engaged in illegal activities vis-a-vis their companies. In accordance with their own interests, they have derived great benefit from the funds of the founders. Some have benefited as a result of the magnitude of the liquidity in their possession by putting the money in banks. Using it as security, they have been able to obtain banking facilities in their own names or to buy and endorse stock. If it went up, they put it in their own names, and if it went down, they put it in their companies' names. There are many cases of betrayal of trust. How can the founders be asked to pay the subscription shares when such members continue to sit on the boards of directors, given all the things they have done--we do not want to describe them--during their tenure?

We ask the question once again. Perhaps the minister of commerce has the right answer. What can the general meetings of these companies do in the face of such practices? They have the right to withdraw their confidence from board members, and they can refuse to renew their membership, supposing that the stock, or at least the majority of it, is still in the name of the founding members. The general meetings can do nothing more than revoke the membership of the current board members. It is as if there were no state with laws it can enforce against those who try to gain wealth with the funds of the citizens.

Finally, we were all expecting the assembly to take a stand on what has happened to the national economy in the last 4 years. However, the assembly was listless during the al-Manakh crisis, and it contributed to the "detailing" of the laws desired by influential persons. The subject of the private companies was raised, and they talked and then gave the government complete authority to act, despite the patent crimes of theft committed by some of the members of the boards of these companies. The matter did not stop there. After the government was able to pass the subject of private companies by the assembly, a number of them went back into action, as if nothing had happened.

DRAFTEES INTERVIEWED ON MANDATORY CONSCRIPTION

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic No 662, 13 Mar 84 pp 12-14

[Interview with Kuwaiti draftees by 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Sari' and 'Ali Ghari: "The Views of the Draftees Concerning the Experience of Compulsory Conscription"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Now that more than 6 years have passed since the beginning of the experiment in military service in Kuwait, an area in which Kuwait has been a pioneer among the state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), we have decided to undertake an evaluation of this experiment by talking to those who experienced it: the "draftees" themselves.

AL-MUJTAMA' held a meeting with a group of brother draftees and talked with them about many of the organizational, social, and military aspects of conscription. The text of AL-MUJTAMA''s meeting with them follows:

[Question] What is your opinion on the length of compulsory military service? For university graduates it is a year, and for others 2 years. Is it suitable, or does it need to be changed?

[Answer] Draftee Faraj al-Khalifah, who has the general secondary diploma, replied "With respect to diploma students, I think they should be added to the university students and serve the same period of time. However, they would receive a salary of a sergeant instead of that of an officer, because it is not proper for them to be equated with those who have the general secondary diploma."

Draftee J.S., who is a diploma student, said "The period of service for university graduates, which is 1 year, is not enough, since the university-level draftees spend about half a year--really 5 months--training at the military college. That leaves 7 months of what is called actual service. That is, they spend this time in their units. This is not enough, I suggest that the university graduates serve a year and a half." He added. "The period of service for the others, which is 2 years, is unjust to those who hold a diploma (in commerce, education or technology), and I suggest that it should be a year and a half, or similar to that for university graduates. As for those without a diploma, the period of service suffices."

Draftee officer 'A. 'A. responded by saying, "The period of service for university graduates is reasonable. As for the non-university graduates, I think there should be a difference between those who have completed their secondary studies and those who have not. As for the first category, a year and a half of service could be considered reasonable for them. For the second category, 2 years would be reasonable and sufficient."

Draftee officer 'A.T. added this: "From my point of view as a university draftee, I prefer things as they are now. There are different reasons, the most important being that those holding university-level degrees generally leave a gap in their posts and administrative activities in the civilian agencies. When they are gone for a long time, there are numerous negative consequences. As for the non-university graduates, I believe that a period of 2 years is rather long for them. However, perhaps one can excuse this by saying that the army derives great benefit from them."

Draftee officer M.Z.: "I believe that setting the diploma-holding graduates of the institutes equal to the other, lower educational levels by giving them the same period of service is unjust. It makes no sense for us to give the holders of diplomas 2 years. I think that their period of service ought to be lessened, in keeping with their qualifications."

[Question] In your opinion, what are the most important negative aspects that have accompanied the experiment of applying compulsory conscription?

[Answer] Faraj al-Khalifah responded by saying, "One of the most important negative aspects we face at the military school is the focus on excessive marching, as if battle consisted of marching. I am not belittling the importance of marching and the discipline it imposes, but it should not take up the major part of our time. On the other hand, we do not do much shooting, which is basic, in my opinion."

Draftee Mash'al al-Khalidi said, "One of the most important negative aspects of the experiment is the absence of morale training in addition to military training."

Draftee H.S. said, "One of the most important negative aspects that have accompanied the experiment of compulsory conscription has been the failure to apply the content of the idea of conscription, which is supposed to create a reserve army from which the state can benefit in the future. The draftees wait for their period of service in a state of great worry and consider it an inescapable evil. During their service, they wait impatiently for it to end, not to speak of the degree to which they benefit from it. The reason for this is that young people lack awareness and do not understand the importance of the draft. It is also due to the failure on the part of officials to apply the basic idea behind the creation of the draft, or to their inability to convince young people of its importance."

Draftee officer 'A. 'A. said, "The most important negative aspect is the failure to make the best use of the energy, qualifications, and experience

possessed by the young men who are drafted. Another is the failure to show any interest in what these young men offer in the way of suggestions and studies."

Draftee officer M.Z.: "Regarding the subject of negative aspects, I think that equating diploma-holding graduates of technical institutes with those from other educational levels, including the primary and intermediate levels, is unjust to the former, since it makes no sense to put an institute graduate on the same level as an illiterate who does not know how to read and write. However, it is impossible for us to consider them equal to warrant officers of the second degree, assuming that programs and lessons suitable to their educational level are made available."

Draftee officer 'A.S.: "It has been mentioned that one of the negative aspects of conscription is the generality of punishment, in which all are held responsible for the error of an individual. Moreover, those draftees who work hard at their training are surprised when those who did not attend for health reasons succeed in the examination and get even better scores."

[Question] In what ways do both the draftees and the state benefit from the system of mandatory conscription in Kuwait?

[Answer] Draftee Mash'al al-Khalidi responded to this question in the following way: "The first benefit is that the draftee becomes aware of the state of affluence in which he was living and of the bodily weakness from which most Kuwaiti youths suffer. As for the state, it benefits from the availability of a reserve rank that can be added to its forces, especially since the region is experiencing extremely critical and difficult circumstances."

Draftee officer 'A. 'A. said: "The draftee benefits by gaining physical strength, becoming very capable, and learning how to use light weapons well. The state has benefited, especially from the non-university recruits, since they have filled open places in many fields."

Draftee officer 'A.S. thought that he had benefited little from the draft, especially in the military sense. While armies were witnessing great progress in military methods and means, Kuwaiti draftees were not being acquainted with these skills, and 'A.S. thought that this had a negative effect.

[Question] What is the character of the relationship between the draftees and the officers? What is the treatment like?

[Answer] Draftee Faraj al-Khalifah answered by saying, "Relations between the draftees and officers are good, but I have noticed a lack of steadiness in some draftees, who show a lack of seriousness in training. The officers have to confront this sort of thing with strictness and firmness, so that they can make them men on whom this country can depend in its hour of need."

Draftee H.S. said, "Treatment differs from trainer to trainer. That is, it depends on the ethics and personality of the trainer. However, there

unfortunately are some trainers who aim to humiliate the draftees. On the other hand, there are trainers with high morals who never think of saying a single word that would wound or harm the draftees."

Draftee officer 'A. 'A. said, "there is a respectful relationship free of any obscene or bad methods. This does not mean that it is free of strictness. In reality, strictness is present and necessary. However, it sometimes is not used in its natural place."

Draftee officer 'A.S. said, "The relationship between the draftees and their trainers is almost nonexistent because of the cultural and educational differences." He pointed out that the trainers sometimes try to hurt the feelings of the draftees without reason or right.

Draftee officer M.A. said, "The relationship between the draftees and a trainer depends to a large extent on the trainer himself. Some trainers establish good relations with the draftees, while others are not good at that."

[Question] What do you think about the annual month of service for draftees who have completed their service? Is it a good idea?

[Answer] Draftee Faraj al-Khalifah said, "The annual month is a good idea. However, it should be full of maneuvers, instead of being wasted in routine activities."

Draftee Mash'al al-Khalidi said, "The annual month is a good idea. During it, draftees and officers can polish up their earlier training, so that they will always be militarily fit."

Draftee H.S. said, "The active tour or annual month is needless. It simply takes employees away from their work for a month. The employees consider it a vacation from their work. It has produced no benefit." Thus, he suggested that it be done away with or changed to once every 3 years. During it, training would be concentrated and more serious.

Draftee officer M.Z. and draftee officer 'A.S. said they thought that the month of service was nothing but a vacation for employees who had been subject to compulsory service in the past. They said that the army did not benefit from the draftees during this period, as it should.

[Question] Do you have suggestions or opinions you would like to voice on compulsory conscription?

[Answer] Draftee Mash'al al-Khalidi: "I suggest that there be more shooting in the field. The Messenger Himself, may the prayers and peace of God be upon Him, referred to its importance with the words. Strength is nothing but shooting. It is the point of the draft as a whole. With respect to the process of dividing the draftees into only two groups, I think it violates the rights of some of them, especially those who hold diplomas. In my

opinion, there should be a third group between those who hold university degrees and the general secondary diploma. They would have the rank of sergeant."

Draftee H.S. suggested the following:

1. Shortening the period of service for holders of diplomas to a year or a year and a half, instead of 2 years,
2. Granting holders of diplomas the rank of chief warrant officer,
3. The training of diploma holders would take place at the military college, along with those holding university degrees. They would study subjects that would qualify them to attain the rank of chief warrant officer and be consistent with the diploma degree.

Draftee M.Z. focused on the importance of increasing academic training so that the draftees would benefit. He said there would be nothing wrong with sending them abroad in specialized tours in order to meet the army's needs. He said it would be fine if a special college were set up for the draftees, instead of mixing them in with the volunteers. A sufficient number of officers could be assigned to administer this college.

12224

CSO: 4404/370

PRINCE BANDAR BIN SULTAN INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON, ARAB SUMMIT

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 367, 3 Mar 84 pp 22-23

[Interview with Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Washington, by Marwan al-Mahayani: "The Military Solution in Lebanon Has Come to Be Outside the Equation"; in Damascus, date not specified]

[Text] At each press conference and television interview conducted with Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Washington and its representative in Damascus, he was asked without fail: "Have you exerted pressure on Syria in order to reach an agreement in Lebanon?" Prince Bandar answered each time without hesitation, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Syria support on the basis of a joint and complete conviction the Arab character, independence, freedom, and stability of Lebanon. Consequently, there is no need to exert any pressure, especially since it is not the policy of the kingdom to do so in its relations with its Arab brothers or with any other state." During the 5 nights Prince Bandar spent in Damascus in order to resume joint Saudi-Syrian efforts to achieve an agreement that would halt the bloodshed and destruction in Lebanon and enable that country to continue its progress toward regaining its well-being and preserving the unity of its land and people, the young Saudi prince held five press conferences that were attended by representatives from all the American television networks and the Arab and western news agencies. He also held about 10 televised interviews that were directly transmitted via satellite. In all these interviews, he expressed his cautious optimism concerning the possibility of reaching the desired agreement, for the sake of Lebanon, via Saudi-Syrian efforts.

Prince Bandar had arrived in Damascus as part of the delegation accompanying Prince 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi crown prince, who was also accompanied by the Saudi mediator, Mr Rafiq al-Hariri. These two stayed in Damascus while Prince 'Abdallah went on to London. There was a predominant air of optimism with regard to the possibility of reaching an agreement soon that would bring about a cease-fire and cancel the 17 May accord, as well as returning the combative Lebanese factions to the dialogue table for the sake of reconciliation. This optimism increased when Syria issued a statement on the results of the visit to Damascus by his highness the Saudi crown prince, who held two closed meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad. This statement announced that the Saudi and Syrian points of view agreed on the

necessity of halting the fighting, in order to enable the factions concerned to work on achieving a national dialogue. This dialogue is considered to be the only way whereby the Lebanese brothers can restore the unity of their country, reestablish security and peace within it, and stand fast in the face of Israeli aggression. Moreover, it was announced that the two countries had agreed to continue their joint efforts to give impetus to the course of peace, security, and national reconciliation, thereby bringing about the achievement of the Lebanese and Arab aspirations.

At 1 am Friday, after Prince Bandar and Mr 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam had held a long meeting attended by the envoy, Mr Rafiq al-Hariri, who had just returned from Beirut, Prince Bandar announced that a cease-fire agreement had been reached that would pave the way for a more comprehensive agreement. Before the Saudi prince left Damascus, at 2 am, he was most desirous of meeting with AL-MUSTAQBAL. Here is the interview:

[Question] If the new agreement has a happier fate than those which have preceded it during the 8 years since the outbreak of war in Lebanon, what will its effects be on the entire situation in the region?

[Answer] The agreement between our Lebanese brothers will have a positive effect on the various aspects of the situation in the region. We call upon God to save the people of Lebanon, our brothers, from every evil. As we have already said many times, the kingdom supports all of Lebanon and loves all the Lebanese, not a part of Lebanon or some Lebanese. Consequently, we support everything on which our Lebanese brothers agree unanimously. It is on this basis that the efforts of Saudi Arabia, His Majesty King Fahd, and His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah have been exerted. Let me say once again out of caution that if the new agreement we are talking about fails, Lebanon will have no recourse but to fall back on divine aid.

[question] Joint Saudi-Syrian efforts have successfully helped the attainment of agreements in Lebanon more than once. Do you see any prospects for more comprehensive cooperation on all Arab levels?

[Answer] The kingdom and His Majesty King Fahd have always supported Arab solidarity. We have worked for it without fail. In our opinion, if there are sincere intentions and if goals are united, then men make history. Any Arab cooperation, whether bilateral or collective, is a firm, continuing Saudi goal for which we strive and for whose achievement we yearn.

[Question] How do you evaluate current American policy in light of the Israeli-American strategic agreement and its effects on the situation in Lebanon and the Arab nation?

[Answer] The kingdom's relations with the United States are based on mutual respect, in a manner conducive to the interests of our people and our Arab and Islamic causes. A great state like America ought to act in a manner that achieves its national interests. Thus, we will act in light of what our interests and those of our people dictate. However, we will not do this by

withdrawing from the American scene, turning inward, and leaving the arena to Israel and Zionism. Instead, we will continue our dialogue with the American administration and people in a logical, intelligent fashion so that we will be able to achieve positive results. Thus, the policy of the United States can be balanced and its positions just, so that it will consequently win our friendship by supporting our legitimate rights and just causes.

[Question] Do you think that the effort to achieve a non-Arab solution to the Middle East crisis, in light of the recent visits by King Husayn and President Mubarak to Washington, is bearing fruit?

[Answer] As Arabs, we possess a just cause. We cannot and ought not to abandon our struggle and constant work to attain just results and solutions to this problem. This is a national duty for all the Arabs. I have no right to evaluate the results of visits by Arab leaders to this capital or that. However, I believe that no matter how dark the prospects may be, we have a duty to continue our work, in order to establish our legitimate rights. Currently, there is an Arab initiative on the political scene that has been unanimously affirmed by the Arab states. It is the program of the Fes summit. We still hope that Arab activity vis-a-vis the entire world will be conducted through it.

[Question] Why was the Arab summit in Riyadh postponed at this critical juncture?

[Answer] Every Arab meeting is an important matter, no matter on what level it is held. It is required and desired. The kingdom has expressed its welcome for the convening of the summit via His Majesty King Fahd. However, as you know, some Arab states wanted to postpone the summit with the intention of making more complete and comprehensive preparations, in order to have it succeed and make sure that its decisions would match the level of serious, current events. We hope that God will inscribe good for this nation and the coming Arab summit.

[Question] But the nation was yearning for an Arab summit that would confront the possibilities, expectations, and serious conceptions extant at this critical juncture. It was waiting on tenterhooks for the summit to be convened.

[Answer] But what if it were convened and failed, O my brother? For a meeting to fail is much worse than for it to be postponed.

[Question] Foreign circles and their media are always suggesting that Saudi Arabia exercises pressure here and there. Is this correct?

[Answer] The kingdom is an independent, sovereign state. It behaves and interacts with every brother and foreign state on the basis of mutual respect, with a due regard for the interests of its people and the Arab and Islamic nations. The history of the kingdom and its leadership proves this. We have always stood in an honorable, trustworthy fashion with our brothers under the gloomiest circumstances on the basis of patriotism, conviction, and faith. Our relations with all our Arab brothers are based on love, our common destiny, and pure Arab morals. Consequently,

the things disseminated by the western media with regard to the kingdom exerting pressure have nothing to do with reality at all. With respect to the subject of Lebanon, we have no need to put pressure on anyone, because all are convinced of the necessity of establishing peace there. Moreover, we and our Syrian brothers have congruent points of view and a single desire to back and support all that that benefits Lebanon, our brother country, and its people. We support the stability, independence, freedom, and Arab character of Lebanon. In addition, all of our efforts are intended to help our Lebanese brothers sit down together, discuss, and reach agreement, because the military solution is now outside the equation.

12224

CSO: 4404/373

KING FAHD INAUGURATES NEW PROJECTS IN SHADOW OF GULF WAR

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 48, 10 Mar 84 p 21

[Article: "Fahd Inaugurates New Projects in Saudi Point Closest to Gulf War"]

[Text] The visit by King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz to the eastern region of the kingdom has become a tradition. Today, more than any time in the past, it is gaining very great importance, since it comes at a time in which the artillery of the Gulf War is rumbling, while Iran's threat to close the Straits of Hormuz is spreading in such a way that international forces have reached states of constant readiness for war.

The inauguration of development and industrial projects in this region reflects the Saudi monarch's tendency toward defiance, as well as his insistence on the proposition that it is the destiny of the Gulf to develop and plan so as to keep up with the age, not to wage war and wreak destruction and desolation.

What projects have been planned for the eastern region?

What does King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz want it to be?

We try to answer these questions here.

It seems that King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz will spend a few days each year in the eastern region. This is something new that has been imposed by the circumstances of the industrial renaissance in that area.

In the past, the visits by King Fahd's predecessors were limited to Ta'if and Jiddah. Then King Fahd came along and introduced what should be considered a tradition: the visit to the eastern region.

Last year, the king spent about 3 weeks in the region. He went there in order to attend ceremonies at which he was acknowledged as king. Instead of returning to Riyadh when the ceremonies were over, he surprised the region's inhabitants by staying with them for a long time, during which he received them and usually ate with them at his table. This time, the main figures of the royal chancellery also went there, since King Fahd carried out his duties as king in the eastern region. He chaired a session of his cabinet there last Wednesday.

AL-TADAMUN has learned that it is possible a headquarters building for the royal chancellery will be built in al-Khubar. This confirms the possibility that King Fahd's visit to the eastern region will be an annual event lasting some time.

With respect to this year's visit, one can say that it is coming at a time in which the industrial importance of the region has increased. It is expected that King Fahd will open today (Saturday) and tomorrow (Sunday) some factories and projects that will make the region into the Hulwan of Saudi Arabia. One should point out that Hulwan, which lies 30 kilometers from Cairo, became an industrial citadel in Egypt in the days when Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was in power. One of its most prominent features was the iron and steel complex.

With respect to the "Hulwan of Saudi Arabia," which is the industrial city of al-Jubayl, its most prominent projects are three of those belonging to the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC). They are the Saudi Company for Iron and Steel (Hadid), the Saudi Methanol Company (al-Razi), and the al-Jubayl Fertilizer Company (Samad). The construction of these factories took place during the first generation of SABIC's basic industries, all of which are supposed to reach the stages of commercial production within 2 years from now. This is not to speak of the second generation projects, which consist of industries that complement the basic industries. In terms of production, they are expected to come on line successively in the second half of this decade. In addition, the second stage of the water purification project in al-Khubar will be inaugurated. Its production capacity amounts to 50 million gallons of water a day, as well as 750 megawatts of electricity, of which 500 megawatts will be sent to the electric company of the eastern region.

It is worth pointing out that King Fahd personally heads the Royal Commission for al-Jubayl and Yanbu'. As for the deputy chairman of the commission, he is Minister of Planning Hisham Nazir. When King Fahd himself heads such a commission, it means that he is giving the matter his greatest attention.

It remains to be noted that those who visit the area of al-Jubayl or its sister city of Yanbu', which lies on the Red Sea coast, say that "an industrial society of a new order" is taking form there. This sort of thing is happening for the first time in a state that cannot be ranked among the industrial societies.

The Saudis themselves who visit the eastern region notice that the behavior of the population in al-Jubayl in particular is very distinguished, disciplined and responsible. This means that there is harmony between men and machine, as well as interaction between the human intellect and modern technology.

In addition to that, King Fahd's visit to the eastern region gains great importance because it comes at a time in which the war between Iran and Iraq is escalating. At the same time, Iran's shouted threats to close the Straits of Hormuz are also escalating. When King Fahd confirms that he will continue to reinforce this industrial citadel (at al-Jubayl) on the waters

of the Gulf, this reflects the tendency toward defiance found in the psyche of the Saudi monarch, as well as his insistence on the proposition that the destiny of the Gulf is "true development and building, and not wars at all."

It is worth pointing out that the distance between the coast on which the city of al-Jubayl and the other cities of the eastern region sit and the Iranian bank of the Gulf is no more than a few kilometers in some places.

If the Lebanese-Syrian crisis is fated to end thanks to the persistent efforts of Saudi Arabia, in which for the past few months Prince 'Abdallah, the Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador in Washington, and Mr Rafiq al-Hariri have taken part, then a Gulf concentration on the shores of the eastern region, where King Fahd has been for a week, would be a sign of activity. This in turn would help to silence the artillery of Iran and Iraq, which has not fallen silent for 4 years. It is certain that the sound of these guns worries all the shores of the Gulf.

12224

CSO: 4404/373

CENTRAL COMMITTEE SAID TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 42, 15 Feb 84 p 3

[Article: "What Happened in the Meetings of the Central Committee in South Yemen?"; Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic; monthly organ of the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in the Yemeni South]

[Text] The Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party has failed to reach an agreement to stop the feud between government agencies in south Yemen. Some sources stated that questions pertaining to the economic and political affairs that are being pursued by the government were sharply criticized. Members of the Central Committee described the government's economic policy as a failure, and they said that state agencies and party organizations had been mismanaged. They said that there was no supervision over the government's possessions and property.

A press release was issued at the conclusion of the meetings that lasted 1 full week. These meetings had been held in the middle of last January. The press release stated that the Central Committee had discussed "questions pertaining to the 1984 economic and social development plan and to the state budget as well."

The press release described the visit that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the party's secretary general, had made to the Soviet Union some time last year as "a contribution to the development of the party's and the state's relations with the Soviet Union."

'Ali Nasir had delivered an address at the conclusion of the Yemeni Labor Union Conference in which he advocated austerity measures and reduced spending. 'Ali Nasir had also accused some party members of failing to control expenses. He said that the state's general expenditures had amounted to 400 million dinars whereas general revenues had amounted to 59 million dinars. He admitted there was a huge deficit in the general budget, but he did not indicate how that deficit could be dealt with.

On the other hand some observers stated that some questions were settled during the meetings of the Central Committee. At those meetings 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was strongly criticized for his domestic policy. Those observers said that members of the Central Committee had affirmed the need for a hard-line approach in foreign policy. Some committee members called for radical changes in this policy. They also called for the formation of a new cabinet that would include members of the Central Committee.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

SECRETARY OF NATIONAL GROUPING INTERVIEWED ON POLICIES

Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 42, 15 Feb 84 pp 4-6

[Interview with Mr 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, Secretary General of the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces by Muhammad Shudri; date and place not specified; Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic; monthly organ of the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in the Yemeni South]

[Text] With the announcement that a National Assembly for the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in south Yemen has been elected, the role of the constituent committee, which had been formed in 1980, comes to an end. The NGPF will embark on a new stage of national action after an executive committee is elected.

The political communique that was issued after the first conference, which was held last 15-19 January, affirmed that that conference was compatible with the historic responsibility of the national forces. The conference realized the principle of democratic action in the ranks of the national opposition which is manifested in the political arm of that opposition, the NGPF in south Yemen.

AL-WAHDAH conducted this interview with Mr 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, the secretary general of the NGPF, and it asked him to answer a number of important questions that were dealt with in the political communique. AL-WAHDAH asked Mr Makkawi to describe fully the view of national action in the coming period and to speak about several other questions pertaining to the opposition.

In this interview Mr 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi assured AL-WAHDAH that the aim of national action in the coming period will be to speak out more and to spotlight further NGPF activities in past years. On the contacts that took place between some elements and the regime in south Yemen Makkawi said, "These contacts were conducted on an individual basis, and they do not mean they were conducted with the NGPF." He dismissed these contacts by saying that they were tactical and that their purpose was to break up the ranks of the opposition.

With regard to the dialogue between the NGPF and the regime in south Yemen Makkawi declared that the NGPF had no objections to any dialogue provided it was serious and honest.

When asked about domestic conditions, he said, "Conditions are deteriorating, and the struggles are still going on. These are primarily struggles for power."

Speaking about the regime's relations with the Gulf countries Makkawi said, "The regime established these relations without being convinced about them; these relations were established as a tactical move to get some funds and to serve foreign strategies." Makkawi said, "The regime in south Yemen is not qualified to conduct the process of implementing Yemeni unity."

The text of the interview follows:

[Question] Now that the NGPF has begun laying the foundations for the creation of legal institutions, what is its step-by-step plan of action?

[Answer] The NGPF has elected a national assembly, an executive committee and a secretariat general. The National Charter, which constitutes the theoretical premise of the NGPF, has been ratified. Ever since the Grouping was established, parties to national action have been working tirelessly and energetically to liberate our people in south Yemen from the oppressive, dictatorial regime that has been imposed on them. Programs of action for the coming period have also been approved. Most of these are confidential. However, I can say that the NGPF has embarked on a new stage of the national struggle. The past 3 years have assured us that the unity of national action was a national and a patriotic necessity. The past 3 years have assured us that the next stage will make us more determined to continue the struggle to liberate our people and achieve democracy as well as social and political justice in our country. We will continue to struggle so that our country can regain its true independence after the existing regime tainted that independence by its policy of subordination and dependency on foreigners.

What is the NGPF?

[Question] Can you define the NGPF for Yemeni and Arab citizens?

[Answer] The National Grouping constitutes an alliance of all patriotic and national organizations and forces and all social and political figures of note on the scene to build a democratic, Muslim and Arab Yemen that would reject subordination to foreigners as well as foreign hegemony regardless of the form and kind of such subordination and hegemony. The National Grouping is a legal person; its various activities of struggle on the scene in Yemen and abroad are integrated. It is formed in accordance with a formula for the alliance of national organizations and figures. These parties adhere to the Grouping's strategic course and to its general fundamental principles.

The Activities of the Grouping during the Past Years

[Question] What has been the product of the Grouping's activities during the past years?

[Answer] The National Grouping has been engaged in multi-faceted activities; among these activities have been those that are political and those that have to do with the media. During the past years we were able to make the cause of our people known to most of the peoples of the world. During that period we met with officials in a number of Arab countries, and we attended international conferences where we were able to make our cause known. We also made other contacts which we cannot mention here because they were confidential.

We are quite confident that all the Arab nations support us. And how can they not support us when they stood by our people during the armed struggle? Now that we are continuing the course of our struggle, after the forces of hegemony and dictatorship in south Yemen rifled with the capabilities and achievements of the 14 October Revolution and distorted its ideas and its patriotic and national implications, we are certain that all the nations of the world will support our struggle because our aim is to restore the radiant Arab character to our country and affirm the right of our Yemeni people to live freely and independently and not to be subordinate to foreigners.

Are There Contacts with the Regime in South Yemen?

[Question] There has been some information about the fact that the regime in south Yemen has had contacts with some political elements. How true is this information?

[Answer] According to what we know the regime in south Yemen did contact some individuals residing in some Gulf states and some other countries. This fact does not mean that contacts were made between the regime and the national opposition, which is represented by the National Grouping, or with elements who have political clout and leadership in the Grouping. There have been no contacts with the Grouping as the political arm of the collective opposition. Any contact with individuals does not concern us. We are confident that these contacts are all tactical. And even if we were to assume that some contacts did take place between the regime in south Yemen and some patriotic elements, these contacts will not have gone beyond two cases only.

First, these contacts were made with individuals, and they were intended to give the impression that contacts with the opposition were being made.

Second, if we assume that such contacts were made, they were made because the regime wants to break the ranks of the opposition by making these contacts--that is, if these contacts are true. However, we do not view any direct contacts between the regime and any other elements as contacts with the National Grouping. If the regime wishes to initiate a dialogue with the opposition, it must do so with the political arm of the opposition, which is the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in South Yemen [NGPF].

We Would Welcome an Earnest and Sincere Dialogue!

[Question] Would you welcome any dialogue with the regime in south Yemen? What are the principles that could become the subject of such a dialogue?

[Answer] The National Grouping, which is the political arm of the national opposition and of all the citizens of south Yemen, does not object to any dialogue with south Yemen. The Grouping, which is represented by its political leaders, does not base its opposition to the regime on any malice towards others, even those who are in the seats of power. However, we think such a dialogue must be earnest and sincere. It must not be entered into as a tactical, temporary move. It is from this perspective that the National Grouping views the meaning of a dialogue, and we have affirmed that in all our positions.

Current Conditions...How?

[Question] What is your assessment of present political conditions in south Yemen?

[Answer] Present domestic conditions in south Yemen are deteriorating, and the rulers of the regime are still involved in feuds. If only they were feuding over changes that are to be made in the interests of our people! Instead, they are involved in a struggle for power. Each faction wants power for itself, and the ultimate outcome of all these feuds is subordination to foreigners.

Economic plans have failed, and the country needs more development. But nothing is being done beyond the proclamation of slogans, and slogans neither enrich one, nor do they satisfy one's hunger.

The economic system that the regime in south Yemen has been pursuing stems from the principles of adhering to the economic courses of Marxism. Democratic Yemen is an Arab Muslim country that is poor and backward. It does not have a feudal system nor large industries to warrant changes in its economic system. Therefore, we are calling for the need to reconsider all economic programs and to devise a clearly-defined economic policy, provided that that take place in accordance with scientific principles and the life we lead. We are asking that the Marxist economic course which has led the country into a state of isolation, poverty and loss be abandoned. It is that economic course that has denied the country its right to have national capital as well as Arab and international aid and investments participate in the development of our country and our national economy.

Relations with Gulf Countries

[Question] It is being stated in the news that steps which were taken recently to bring about relations between some Gulf states and the regime in south Yemen were taken to obtain necessary funds to save the economy from collapse. What do you think about this matter?

[Answer] It is true that the purpose of establishing relations between the regime in south Yemen and some Gulf states was to get funds. These relations were not based on conviction or on building a patriotic, national course. These relations were established as a tactical step-by-step move to obtain funds and to serve the strategies of some major countries that are looking now for a foothold in the area of the Gulf and in the Arabian Peninsula. These countries found what they have been looking for in the regime of south Yemen, which is carrying out their wishes.

Yemeni Unity

[Question] What does the National Grouping think about the question of Yemeni unity, and how can that unity be achieved?

[Answer] The unity of Yemen can only be achieved by those who advocate unity and who believe in it and can bring it about through a real democratic vision. The regime's actions on the unity of Yemen do not stem from the national cause as

much as they do from [a desire] to serve the objectives of foreign strategies. Members of that regime proclaim slogans of Yemen's unity that are incompatible with the national idea and a proper view of the notion of unity. Therefore, we will continue to maintain that the present regime is not qualified to lead the process of implementing the unity of Yemen until it commits itself to the patriotic, national course. This is the course that is being conducted by means of a sound view and a sound direction in north Yemen by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. One of the most important things he has done is establish the foundations of democracy in north Yemen. This is the course we believe in. In the south, however, there is nothing but a repressive, dictatorial regime.

Will the Struggle Be Settled Soon?

[Question] There are news reports that the struggle between the ruling factions in south Yemen is intensifying and that a settlement of that struggle is expected soon. Do you believe that such a settlement will bring about a change in the regime?

[Answer] I said previously that the ongoing struggle was a struggle for power. This struggle will continue as long as it remains a struggle for power. If the second conference of the Yemeni Socialist Party is held this year, I believe that the struggle will continue and that internal temporary settlements will be reached, unless other circumstances occur to settle that struggle in favor of one of the factions in power. It is my personal judgment that no settlement of this struggle can come about unless two viewpoints are understood.

1. The first viewpoint is that the foreign forces that are orchestrating that struggle intend to settle it in favor of the party they favor.
2. The second viewpoint is that there can be no settlement unless the power that controls the armed forces is taken into consideration. Ultimately, it is that power that can be decisive in any change.

The Results of the First Conference of the Grouping Party

[Question] What about the results of the meetings of the first conference of the National Grouping which was adjourned on 19 January 1984? What about the basic questions that were discussed at that conference? Does the fact that this conference was held mean that there is a new shift in the Grouping's political activities?

[Answer] Suffice it to say that the founding of the National Grouping made the regime reconsider some of its domestic and foreign considerations, even though these considerations were tactical and not strategic. The regime was compelled to make a change after it found that opposition was intensifying among forces outside the country and among our people inside the country, despite the continued repression of this domestic opposition.

An agreement was reached while the conference was in session over a number of basic issues that concern the opposition. These issues primarily concern our people in the south. There is a new shift in the method of national action, and its results will become evident soon, God willing.

BRIEFS

DRAFT FOR LIBERATION WAR--Authorities in Aden are presently drafting men for service in the war of liberation. At the present time the names of those men are being listed. A decision has been made to pay each man a salary of 700 shillings a month. Each man will also be issued one weapon; that weapon will be a machine gun. The authorities are trying to gather the largest number of these fighters, whether they belong to the National Front or the Liberation Front. It is being said that those men will be considered a provisional army for the future. [Text] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 42, 15 Feb 84 p 35] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic; monthly organ of the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in the Yemeni South] 8592

POLITICAL LEADER'S RETURN DEMANDED--A number of disputes and confrontations occurred between persons in power at the meetings of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party. These meetings were held last January. News reports indicate that changes in the state are expected to happen but that these have been postponed at the present time. At these meetings Mr 'Ali Shayi', a candidate for membership of the Political Office, who had previously held the position of minister of the interior, asked the Central Committee to call for the return of 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il as the leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party. He said that there was no need for Mr Isma'il to stay abroad. That suggestion was opposed by Brig Gen 'Ali Ahmad 'Antar, vice president of the Presidential Commission and first deputy prime minister. The suggestion was also opposed by Mr Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, the governor of the Third Governorate. There were sharp discussions among the members, but a final decision on the matter has not yet been made. Questions are being raised about the reasons that led Shayi' to raise that issue at the present time. [Text] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic No 42, 15 Feb 84 p 35] [Cairo AL-WAHDAH in Arabic; monthly organ of the National Grouping of Patriotic Forces in the Yemeni South] 8592

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CONTINUING RESISTANCE IN AFGHANISTAN DESCRIBED

Soviet Tactics

Geneva JOURNAL DE GENEVE in French 7 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by Alain Chevalerias: "Red Army Punishes the Mujahidin"]

[Text] The author of this report was with the Afghan resistance fighters several weeks ago. At a time when the Soviet army is launching a new offensive in the direction of the Panjshir Valley, one of the bastions of Muslim resistance, the articles by Alain Chevalerias, a free-lance journalist from Paris, casts some light on the tactical aspects of a conflict which is going into its fifth year (The Editor).

The air is dry. The earth and the rock burn in the sun. The sky is bluer than blue. The heavy Soviet transport plane appears from the infinite distance. It is an Antonov. It is beginning its circling over Tanguy Malmol. The vulture seeks its prey. Tireless and methodical, it circles, beyond the range of the heavy machine guns. This incessant throbbing! For 2 days, the cameras and the computers of the giant cargo aircraft have spied on us constantly. Seeking the weak point where the Red Army can focus its attack on the base of Zabiullah Khan, the amir (leader) of the Mazar-e-Sharif guerrilla force.

The Terror

Suddenly, a strident racket explodes in the sky. In a lightning flash, two MiGs roar over the gorge. There is general panic and a rush toward the caves hollowed out of the cliff. The mountain birds shriek a cry of horror which echoes from the rock walls.

The airplane continues to circle. Elusive, it is observing for the two jets which peel off and return, like two falcons released by their master. His fingers clinging to the stone, a boy of about 15 mumbles a verse of the Koran. His comrades, locked in their fear, are silent. On the ridge, directly above us, a Dashaka opens fire. Its bullets seek the bellies of the iron birds, but they bear down on us, strong in their speed. Streaks of fire and rockets leap forth. They explode in a burst of orange flame, releasing an odor of sulfur.

Again silence, and the whistle of breaths which had been held. The litany of the disturbed birds. The Antonov is still circling, and the intolerable screaming of the Migs begins to mount again. Diabolical seeds appear as black dots and fall from their wings. The bombs. A heat wave attacks our lungs. The bursts of metal rend the air with a hiss. Our ears buzz. Up above, on the ridge, the machine gun bullets pursue the enemy. The two Mig-21s return to the attack three times. Three times they spill their cargo of death over Tanguy Malmol, and then they disappear.

Despite the big Antonov which guided them, however, the two fighters have not destroyed a target. A donkey with a minor wound at the base of his neck is the only victim.

Secret Doubts

The aerial tactics of the USSR in Afghanistan have developed slightly since last year. Today it is not unusual for the large Antonov transports to prepare for attacks, to direct the fighter-bombers to their targets, several days in advance. Without a doubt, this new procedure is explained by the improvement of the Mujahidin's defenses and the pilots' lack of boldness. Unless the commanders are simply unwilling to check on their fliers. Are there not rumors claiming that the Afghan pilots refused to bomb the villages? And that the authorities have had to deal harshly with some of them, executing them, for example? On the Aghar Say Plateau and in the mountains to the south of Mazar-e Sharif, I saw these small settlements on parched land seemingly spared by the bombs, although one could count the craters caused by the explosions around them by the tens. It was as if the jets had purposely missed their targets.

But not all the pilots show these scruples, and the villages remain the favorite targets of the communist planes. For the Soviet commanders, it is as much a question of reprisals against the people, following the attacks by the Mujahidin, as it is limiting the exodus in order to starve the guerrillas out. In order to achieve their goals, the Soviets do not hesitate to drop incendiary bombs on the harvests. However, this remains the long-term strategy, and the military often prefer large-scale operations combining the use of aircraft and armored vehicles to it.

Last spring, the Tanguy Malmol base was subjected to one of these offensives. Khalil Khan, Zabiullah Khan's right arm, told us about it.

"We knew several days ahead that the Soviets were preparing to destroy our djaba (permanent base). Our spies in Mazar-e Sharif had told us that the communists were concentrating men and tanks at the garrisons. They established a tent camp at the exit from Tanguy-Malmol where the valley opens out on the plain. According to our estimates, the communist forces totaled 10-15,000 soldiers and about 500 armored vehicles of all kinds, but basically BTR-60s (armored cars). Forty helicopters took to the air at once. There were only 300 of us to resist the enemy. The Soviet troops transported by helicopter had established positions behind the mine fields, on the hills dominating the camp where the Afghan army had its most exposed outposts.

Trapped between us and the Red Army, the Afghan soldiers had to fight or be executed by the Soviets."

Costly Offensive

During those days, the jets, helicopters and guns pounded our positions. For lack of ammunition and heavy weapons, we could not respond. Then the Soviets decided to wipe us out. An armored column moved forward and entered the gorge. Our men fired at point-blank range with rifles at the tanks. The 'Churawi' (Russians) wiped them out with heavy machine guns. But we had laid anti-tank mines. The lead tank, a Kabul Army T-54, blew up. Those following wanted to turn back, but the Soviets prevented them from doing so. The battles lasted 6 days, and then the Red Army lifted the siege. We suffered 42 dead. Our informers have told us that hundreds of coffins arrived at the Mazar-e Sharif airport to evacuate their dead soldiers."

Impassive, with its thousands of craters dug by projectiles of all sizes, the Tanguy Malmol cliff looks down on the plain plowed by the treads of the tanks. A PT-54/55, one of those mine-detector vehicles which precede the tanks, is slowly returning to the earth, rusting on the spot.

But this type of offensive, too costly in men and materiel, is becoming less frequent. And since the advent of Andropov, it does seem that a great part of the initiative for the Afghan operation has passed from the hands of the military to those of the secret services. Henceforth, the Kremlin is giving priority to intelligence and infiltration actions. Since neither the Red Army nor the Afghan army is succeeding in controlling the interior of the country, the military are contenting themselves with protecting the road axis and the Soviet bases adjacent to it. This is a defensive tactic, punctuated by punitive actions ordered by the KGB and the KHAD (Afghan Secret Service) against the people who support the guerrillas.

Intelligence and Propaganda

Geneva JOURNAL DE GENEVE in French 8 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by Alain Chevalerias: "The Kremlin's Secret Thrust"]

[Text] It was Ismatulla Khan who gave me this letter to take to Mazar-I-Sharif.

"Ismatulla Khan?"

"Yes, the head of the Pader Watan."

"The Pader Watan, you say. Are they Mujahidin?"

"They say that they are Muslims, that the government is good and that the Soviet soldiers have come to help us." (See our 7 March issue.)

The man speaking is named Djouraba. He is 60-plus. His grey beard quivers as his chin trembles. He answers my questions in a hurried voice, as if to

be more convincing about his innocence. And yet, a few days earlier, the Djamiat patriots caught him along the road to Mazar-e Sharif. He was carrying a letter addressed to the KHAD, the Afghan secret service subordinate to the authority of the KGB.

Traitors in Turbans

This was the first time I had heard of this strange organization, the Pader Watan, which dispatches pro-governmental counterguerrillas throughout the country. But others were to prove more talkative than this poor old man.

Stroking his black beard with a swollen hand, Mohamad Omar lifted his eyes from his prayerbook, and with an amiable gesture, urged me to sit down beside him. He wears the prestigious turban of golden cloth of the mullah, and he commands the 300 Mujahidin in the Djamiat of the Cholgar subregion. An amused smile spread over his face when, without preamble, I bombarded him with questions about the Pader Watan.

"They established themselves in the Zari sector, 2 days' march from here, a year ago," he responded. "Their men do not wear uniforms, but they earn much larger wages than the military. No, they have no tanks, but they use trucks. Sometimes, during battles against the Mujahidin, helicopters come from Mazar-e Sharif to support them. For the rest, they utilize the same tactics as we do. Their relations with the people? They are in the grip of the terror imposed upon them, and a certain ambiguity. Their leader, Ismatullah Khan, commands 250 men and claims affiliation with Islam. The peasants in our country are simple people, and a handful of traditional leaders have let themselves be corrupted by the money offered them by the communists. Moreover, Ismatullah Khan is himself a former mujahid of the Harakat-Enqelabe."

In the Pule Khumri region, Mullah Alam, in this case a Hezb-e Eslani commander, gave me identical information. A Pader Watan guerrilla force took up a position beside the road axis along which the Soviet convoys travel. It provides a barrier against the night attacks and infiltration by the Mujahidin.

In recruiting its mercenary troops, the USSR does not hesitate to offer remuneration which is exorbitant in the economy of a country like Afghanistan. Thus a mere corporal in the Afghan army, the worst-paid body, earns three times what a peasant does. The recruiting of agents is also done by offers of money. For example, during the summer, the men under Abdul Hassan, in charge of the guerrilla force for the Sang-ei Surakh region, seized six persons in the course of a check. Two men and four women were transporting funds and a list of 300 infiltrators paid by the KHAD.

The establishment of an intelligence network in the liberated zones is taking on an alarming aspect, moreover, and incidents are multiplying. Last spring, Zabiullah Khan condemned a certain Shafe to death. The son of a well-off family, Shafe had made several trips to Europe. On his return from one of his tours, the police arrested him. After being held for several months, he escaped, he says, and joined the guerrilla force.

The weeks ran on, until a mujahedin informer learned the truth. Definitely "persuaded" of the grandeur of the communist ideal in the course of his stay in prison, Shafe was passing information to the KHAD and the KGB.

Apart from the boys recruited for the militia at the age of 14 or 15, Moscow does not hesitate to recruit veritable little spies in short pants. This is the story of Mohamad Shabaz, who is not yet 16.

A Spy in Short Pants

He has the lusterless skin of the Pashtun and "hair blacker than a moonless night." With a nervous gesture, he wipes his damp palms across his loose cotton shirt. Seated on a reed mat, Mirza Ghaoussouddine questions him in a calm, almost paternal tone. The boy is nearly crying. He knows his life is at stake. He thought he was quite safe, however, in "his" city--Mazar-e Sharif. When, in exchange for several thousand rupees, he reported patriots to the police, he never thought that the Mujahidin could lay hands on him in the heart of the city. Today, along with some 20 other detainees, he is awaiting the decision of the "gazi," the Islamic judge. Perhaps, because of his youth, he will receive the "aman," the Muslim pardon.

Past masters in the realm of disinformation and misleading young people, the Soviets also practice their skills in the schools. Aslam told us a tale indicative of the atmosphere which prevails at the Bortar Secondary School in Mazar-e Sharif.

"We have 2 hours of political training each week. An official from the Parcham (the Afghan PC [Communist Party] faction in power) teaches the class. Many students come to school in the party uniform. When I talked with the others, I never told them I am a Muslim and that the Soviets should leave Afghanistan. They would have put me in prison.

"Sometimes the teachers take us to one of the two movie houses in the city to see films containing propaganda against the Mujahidin. Before the revolution, there were 10,000 students at this school. Today, because the Muslims are afraid of the communists, there are only 1,500 of us. The teachers who joined the Parcham 5 years ago carry revolvers in the classrooms. The director, for his part, has a Kalishnikov

Where the subjects discussed in the official propaganda are concerned, they may go to extremes of aberration. Igor, a Soviet soldier from Minsk who is a prisoner of the Mujahidin, told us:

"The commanders (of the Red Army) deceived us. They told us that here, with the Mujahidin, there are American soldiers, Chinese soldiers and French soldiers."

The fabric the KGB is weaving through Afghanistan is of a sort to worry the most optimistic. Does this mean one should believe this nation is hopelessly vulnerable to Moscow's appetite?

However, despite a West which is quicker to complain than to provide aid, the Afghan guerrilla fighters are gradually adapting to the war imposed upon them by the USSR.

New Type of War

Geneva JOURNAL DE GENEVE in French 9 Mar 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by Alain Chevalerias: "From Tribal to Modern Guerrilla Warfare"]

[Text] "Hey! Stop or I'll shoot," the man shouted in Persian. Fortyish, with the slit-like eyes of the Turkmen, he had us in the sights of an old carbine. Several of the Mujahidin in our group disappeared among the high cornstalks. Their comrades gave the appearance of submitting to the order (see our 7 and 8 March issues).

Two unarmed old men stood beside the farmer threatening us. The cornstalks trembled, ever closer to the earthen wall protecting the three men. Would the 50-some warriors of Zabiullah Khan exterminate this bad-tempered peasant?

Communists on the Other Side

Mamour Abdullah, the leader of the group, ostentatiously laid his Kalishnikov on the ground. Turban artistically knotted around his head, he advanced toward the three Turkmen with a measured step, talking constantly. Hysterical, the armed man yelled as he raised the barrel of his gun:

"No farther, or I'll kill you! We don't want you to fight the communists. The Soviets are on the other side of the river. They will burn our harvests and destroy our homes!"

This incident occurred in the Kaldar region, in the northern part of Afghanistan. By climbing to the roof, we could see the river, the Daria-I-Amou, and the observations posts dotting the Soviet frontier. That day the Mujahidin would not attack the military post located behind the line of poplars. Zabiullah Khan, who exerts authority over the whole region, did not want a clash involving his movement, the Djamiat, and the other parties. It was necessary to negotiate, and Mamour Abdullah would work at that.

Here, the guerrilla force is commanded by Qiledj. A corpulent man, moreover, he looks nothing like a warrior. And he was fearful--fearful of this troop from Tanguy Malmol which had marched more than 80 kilometers to meet him. Notables of the area, the "whitebeards," surrounded him, wrapped in silence and seated in a circle on the scarlet carpets. Mamour Abdallah spoke at length: of the war, of the brotherhood uniting the Muslims, of the shame he feels for those who refuse battle against the enemy, the Churawi (Russians).

"...And these messages, Qiledj, which you had carried to the sector commanders of the Djamiat, forbidding them to fight the Soviets, threatening them with your reprisals. How can a Muslim be attached to his land, to his wealth, to the point of ignoring the voice of God?"

Was Qiledj persuaded? He nodded affirmatively, while wiping his sweaty brow. But no, the elders exerted the full weight of their authority. They were fearful of the Soviets' punitive expeditions.

In a gentle voice, without a single gesture of impatience, Mamour Abdullah went on for hours. Qiledj weakened. The "whitebeards" left the room in dignified fashion. Their cause was lost. And, who could know, perhaps the Soviets too had lost the battle. Didn't evil tongues claim that the truck Qiledj used was not war booty, but might well have been a gift from the communist authorities?

The Battle of Mazar

The Afghans generally show more enthusiasm for driving the Soviets out of the country. These battles in which grandeur vies with murderous folly are a fascinating spectacle--for example, that in Mazar-e Sharif last spring.

Following the two combatants, I entered the main building which is crowned by the airport control tower. The smell of powder was in the air, and bursts of automatic weapons fire clattered everywhere. The Mujahidin ran from one office to the next, in a search for the last soldiers from the garrison. Gathered on the ground floor, the soldiers waited, hands in the air, covered by ancient Enfield rifles. It was Shah Mohamad who was carrying out this mission. He died a month later in a militia ambush. Farther off, a group of laughing combatants were plundering the armory of ammunition and grenades. Up above, in the control tower, two men were machine-gunning the radio equipment and screens.

Emerging from an abandoned dormitory, two soldiers came toward us. They were carrying their Kalishnikov with the stocks braced on their forearms. Trapped between my two bodyguards, I waited for the inevitable moment when the weapons would go off. But, as if in a dream, I saw these enemies approach to within arm's distance and congratulate each other. The men facing us were two of the 12 accomplices of the Mujahidin. For several months, working with Zabiullah Khan, they had been preparing for the seizure of the Mazar-e Sharif airport.

Outside, an old T-54 (Soviet tank) was racing its engine. Slowly, the mastodon hoisted itself out of its trench. A half-dozen wild warriors, screaming with joy, were crouched on its steel shell. On the runway, two BTR-40 tanks were already moving toward the mountain sanctuaries. Loaded with weapons and equipment seized from the army, they disappeared into the accommodating night.

In turn, the commando unit slipped away. The men were combing through the booty they had seized. In the distance, a concert of explosions set the airport ablaze. Despite the proximity of the USSR and the Soviet camps, the enemy did not retaliate. For more than 3 hours, Zabiullah Khan's men remained masters of the area. And, from a garrison of 70 soldiers, some 60 came to strengthen the ranks of the guerrilla force, which was richer by 108 weapons, including 65 Kalishnikovs and four Goryunov SGM-49 machine guns.

The New Methods

Infiltrating the enemy bases, gathering intelligence, organizing destructive operations and seizing weapons and ammunition--these are the methods which are spreading through the guerrilla force. In a year, the development has been astonishing.

How many battles in the past were limited to encirclement of military posts by night, wasteful bursts of fire against walls several meters thick, and a disorderly retreat without the slightest gain? Today, in Sang-i Surakh, in Khulm, in Pule Khumri and in many other sectors, the mujahedin are mounting veritable commando-style actions, at least where the most active "djaba" (bases) are concerned.

Massoud, the engineer in command in Panjshir, contributed greatly to the improvement of the patriots' tactics, for example. But one man cannot provide everything, and the first guerrilla schools developed at the end of 1982. In the mountains of Afghanistan, and not "abroad," as Soviet propaganda claims.

In these schools, the instructors teach the handling of heavy weapons, sabotage and security measures, and they have their students engage in sports. One has to have seen some 20 turbaned adolescents, hindered by their traditional garments, jumping about on both sides of a volleyball net to the accompaniment of constant shouts, to believe this scene.

As if providing proof that Islam is not negative in nature, I found in many of these young recruits a spirit of generosity and protection of the weaker bordering on the chivalrous.

5157

CSO: 4619/29

CHIEF JUSTICE RECOMMENDS OVERLOOKING 'MINOR DIFFERENCES'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] Bandar 'Abbas. Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice, accompanied by Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i, a member of the Supreme Judicial Council, arrived in Bandar 'Abbas to visit the Province of Hormozgan to investigate a number of judicial problems, also to see the progress made in various judicial affairs of the Province as well as to visit the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman battleship. He was welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi, the representative of the imam and Friday imam of Bandar 'Abbas; the commander of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman battleship and a number of other authorities of the Province.

Gathering of the Friday Imams of the Province

According to a report from the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i participated in a session in Bandar 'Abbas with the Friday imams of Bandar 'Abbas, Bandar Lengeh and Rudan, the Shar' magistrate and several clerics, which was held in the home of the representative of the imam and Friday imam of Bandar 'Abbas.

In this session, concerning the importance of unity, the chief justice said: We are all Muslims, Iranians and worshippers of God. In Islam, there are various laws regarding our behavior. And the Constitution also allows political parties. Now, the enemy uses every opportunity and takes advantage of every incident. In the course of 14 centuries, the enemies have learned and realized how to create problems for us by escalating religious differences, as they are trying to do in Kurdistan and have done in other places in the world, such as India, Pakistan and other countries. But what gives us hope is that, thank God, with the blessing of this revolution, all the people, publicly and individually, have reached an intellectual growth which

enables them to recognize the enemies and realize their influence. Hence, if we want Islam and the Koran, we must overlook such minor differences.

In continuing his statements, he referred to problems such as the shortage of water, roads, the issues of the sea, fishing and fisheries, border transactions, purchases of production goods in the region and follow-up and elimination of these problems and difficulties by the authorities and said: These are problems to which attention must be paid. Today, we must answer these people because there may be a time when they stand up before the government and create problems. But now we see that at this time our people are not like that. Hence, to people who give up their own lives and those of their dear ones and all they own, we are obliged to recognize their troubles and respond to them.

In conclusion, he added: You brothers who are active in this area have a very important task. We pray for you and will cooperate with you as much as possible. We are trying to develop this area with short and long term plans.

In continuing the session, Mr Moqtada'i, member and spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council, referred to the deprivation in the region and the fact that today our most important issue is the war, saying: When the superpowers and the Great Satan realized that the regime of the Islamic Republic was not a regime of slogans alone, they imposed this war on us. But what has been a source of so much hope is what the revered imam said in one of his speeches, that all officials are trying to eliminate the problems, and this is seen everywhere today.

Judicial Problems of the Province of Hormozegan

In regards to the judicial problems of the Province of Hormozegan, he said: One of the problems of this area is the judicial problem. For a long time and in numerous sessions, we have tried to strengthen the judicial branch in this area, but we have faced a shortage of manpower in this regard.

Concerning the goals of his visit to the Province of Hormozegan, Mr Moqtada'i said: The goal is to improve the judicial branch in the area. For this reason, it was determined that a special civil court be established here, of which someone has been appointed to be in charge. Also, one person, who will come to the area within the next few days, has been commissioned to establish the penal court.

On this issue, he added: We will visit the prisons and prisoners and after becoming familiar with the problems, we will make certain decisions to eliminate them.

In conclusion, referring to the importance of the issue of unity, he said: In an area where there has been more unity and cooperation concerning organizations, institutions and departments, they have been better able to work and we hope to end this imposed war through unity and togetherness.

In continuing this session, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi, the representative of the imam and Friday imam of Bandar 'Abbas, said in regard to the sensitivity of the area: As the enemies of Islam and the revolution know, in this area, there is a strait called the Strait of Hormuz, which is like a jugular vein that we are able to press and thus strangle the East and the West; hence, God has created it for this very purpose.

Also, in this session, those present posed their problems and difficulties and Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice, offered the necessary explanations to them.

Visit to the Ninth Hunting Base

In continuing their visit to Bandar 'Abbas, Mr Musavi-Ardabili and Mr Moqtada'i arrived at the ninth fighter unit base of Bandar 'Abbas and were welcomed by the commander, the ideological-political supervisor, the personnel and the organizations of the air force base.

After their arrival at the ninth fighter unit base, the chief justice and his companions visited the facilities of this base and the necessary explanations were provided in every section by the officials.

At the end of his visit, Mr Musavi-Ardabili made a speech to the base personnel at the base amphitheater.

In connection with the self-sacrifice of the air force personnel in this area, he said: Now, one can precisely see your responsibility here. You are Iranians and Muslims; you have liked the revolution; you have flown to the mouth of death and returned; you have been heroic and you have been a source of admiration for others.

Concerning the issue of the imposed war, the chief justice continued: You all know well that the enemy is right behind you. Regardless of the fact that closing the Strait of Hormuz will close the way to the Gulf, we must imagine that the enemy is already here and is trying to close it. Even if we do not have superior weapons to those of the enemy, we have superior faith.

Mr Musavi-Ardabili and his companions left the ninth fighter unit base yesterday to visit the city of Minab and the surrounding area in this Province.

IRAN

MAJLIS SPEAKER TALKS ABOUT DOMESTIC, FOREIGN ISSUES

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Mar 84 p 12

[Text] JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Political Desk - Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Majlis and the Imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, held an exclusive interview with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI. He discussed the war situation, false propaganda by Iraq and the world imperialist news media, the trips to Baghdad by the special American envoy and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, the situation in Lebanon, the future role of the Majlis, and agricultural self-sufficiency. We present the details of the interview below for our dear readers.

How do you assess the most recent changes at the war front, and especially the recent claims by Saddam's regime and the imperialist propaganda media to the effect that Majnun Island has been retaken?

Just as we have said in the past, Saddam is being kept alive by propaganda, and he works on a day-to-day basis. With regard to Majnun Island, we will soon invite foreign correspondents there to inspect the site, and when they go to this island, Saddam will be disgraced more than before. Of course, they have no objection to being disgraced. In the past, after every operation they claimed that the forces of Iran had not liberated the areas they had liberated; telling lies has become normal for them. In any case, in order to prevent the naive from losing heart, we will expose these lies.

The situation at the fronts is just as we want it; we have gone to those places we wanted to go to, and we have achieved our goals.

Saddam's regime has claimed that it has hit four oil tankers at Khark Island. What is your view concerning this claim?

This statement of theirs, like their previous statements, is false. There have been no incidents at Khark, and they have made no attacks on our ships. Their military leaders give these false

reports to their higher officials to serve their own aims; they hope to compensate for their defeats by doing these things. By saying these things, they hope to portray the Persian Gulf as insecure, and the imperialist news media are cooperating with them in this respect. These things are a news and propaganda plot. The main thing is that they have no fear of being disgraced, and they think they can stir up a commotion every day.

What do you foresee in the Lebanon situation, in view of the failure of the National Reconciliation Conference and the flight of the interventionist French forces?

The situation in Beirut is somewhat complicated. The imperialists will not withdraw from there easily, and they are admitting their impotence in the face of the Muslims of Lebanon. It is not proper to speak of reconciliation in Lebanon; there will be no reconciliation there unless the desires of the people are implemented. They must heed the majority of the people in Lebanon; the government must be taken away from the Phalangists so that the people can breathe freely.

What is your view concerning the trips to Baghdad by the special American envoy and the Egyptian Foreign Minister?

These trips are being made in order to maintain the morale of Saddam and the Ba'th Party of Iraq. These activities are part of the same plans to promote and protect the Iraqi regime. Actually, these trips are being made in pursuit of the goals of that conference of Arab foreign ministers that was held in Baghdad. Egypt, of course, also has need of these propaganda activities. Egypt wants to recover from its isolation caused by the great crime it committed in recognizing Israel, and to get into a position, with the help of the Iraqi regime, where it can return to the Arab fold. The Iraqi regime has come forward in favor of removing Egypt from its isolation; it has even given assurances to America that it is in favor of officially recognizing Israel and giving it security. Yet this regime appeared to oppose Israel in the past. The Egyptian regime is now using the Iraqi Regime's hypocrisy in order to return to the Arab community; Saddam's regime, in turn, thinks that it will be able to stabilize itself by supporting Egypt.

What is your view concerning the president's proposal, in which he announced that the year 1363 [21 Mar 1984 - 20 Mar 1985] will be a year for victory in the war, a crusade in the administrative offices, and food self-sufficiency?

The views that he expressed are also my own views. In the event, God willing, that we are able to end the war victoriously during the new year, a great many of our resources will be freed, and we will be able to use them to make the country prosperous, and

especially in the area of achieving agricultural self-sufficiency. Actually, achieving self-sufficiency is one of our important and basic goals.

Do you have anything to say concerning the important programs that the Majlis will have on its agenda in 1363 [21 Mar 1984 - 20 Mar 1985]?

The term of the present Majlis will soon expire; we must wait and see what the composition of the next Majlis will be. Of course, I predict that the make-up of the next Majlis will be just like that of the current one. We now have plans which make up the agenda of the Majlis, and if the representatives of the next Majlis are in agreement, it will be put forward at that time as well.

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CSO: 4640/180

FIRST WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY TO START IN SEPTEMBER

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 20 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] ISLAMABAD, March 19--Dr Mohammad Afzal Federal Minister for Education said here today that the first women's University in the country will start functioning from September 1984 the beginning of the next academic year.

Speaking as chief guest at the first prize distribution ceremony of the first annual athletic meet Federal Government Margala College for Women the Minister said that those women's colleges which opted to be attached and constituent colleges will be affiliated with the proposed university.

He said that there were three elements which could contribute to the advancement of education in the country. First of all he said: "is the dedication of the teachers to their duties and the other is the diligence of the students in the studies. Thirdly it is also essential that parents should take keen interest in their wards and look after them properly.

He suggested that a book bank of at least 150 books be set up in the college which may contain best books on science fiction and other subjects.

He announced a donation of Rs. 10,000 for the proposed book bank and asked the college principal to make a pioneering effort in inculcating the habit of reading among the students. He also announced that the students who will read the larger number of books will be given awards from the Ministry of Education.

Earlier in her address of welcome Mrs. Khalida Masud Ali Principal of the college highlighted the activities of the institution.

The Minister also gave away prizes to the winners. Miss Farzana Mughal was adjudged as the best all round athlete. First year class won trophies in hockey badminton volleyball table tennis and athletics.

CSO: 4600/459

REGIME 'CIVILIANIZING' ITSELF THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Mushahid Hussain: "The Journey to March 1985 Begins"]

[Text] ISLAMABAD, March 9--The recent overhaul in Pakistan's defence hierarchy signifies an apparent willingness on the part of President Ziaul Haq to move forward, albeit cautiously, on some sort of civilianisation of his six and a half year old military regime via a regulated electoral process. These changes are the most significant in the defence services since February 1980, when two Corps Commanders, namely, Lt. Gen. Faiz Ali Chishti and Lt. Gen. Ghulam Hassan Khan, were retired.

These changes, which have coincided with changes in the Federal Cabinet, seem to be part of a two-pronged political offensive launched by President Ziaul Haq which, in effect, means that he has fired the first shots in his election campaign--a full one year in advance of his own deadline of March 1985. The President has been extremely candid in always stating that the army is his 'constituency'. This is factually correct as well, since he occupies his position as Head of State and Chief Martial Law Administrator by virtue of being the Chief of the Army Staff. By installing a team of close confidants in strategic positions, the President has nominated an embryonic National Security Council which will oversee the proposed transition from "khaki into Mufti".

It can also be viewed as an indicator of the President's willingness to relinquish his position as Chief of the Army Staff, plus lift Martial Law in March 1985, just before his own election as a civilian President. All of this would, of course, be done under the watchful eyes of a Turkish-style National Security Council, whose two key members are already in place via the recent changes. Apart from strengthening his own constituency through these changes, the President has also eased the pressure for promotions. The last such promotion to senior positions--to the rank of Lieutenant General--took place in 1982. In 1983, there were no promotions, only extensions. The year 1984 now promises to be different.

Broadening Base

The second element of this political offensive of the President will be a greater opening up via public meetings (the kick-off will be in Peshawar on March 12) plus subtle attempts to broaden his base. He might make a slight tilt away from the Right to the Centre. As part of this tactic, certain steps have already been in order, the permission granted to Benazir Bhutto to leave the country; the release of a number of political leaders; the shedding of the 'special relationship' with the Jamaat-i-Islami as exemplified by the ban on student unions and suppression of its militant student wing and the friendly overtures to the Soviet Union. In the same vein, President Ziaul Haq has showered the first public praise on his most important political opponent, Miss Benazir Bhutto, by referring to her in an interview with the 'Sunday Telegraph' as "undoubtedly a brilliant young woman (who) could win election on her own merits".

Now that the President has apparently decided to embark on some sort of elections, it is necessary to underline difficulties of what could be a selective power-sharing mechanism. Even if the regime is committed to non-party polls, the President cannot by-pass those political forces in the country which are represented by the traditional political parties, including components of the MRD. While the government may succeed in co-opting politicians from sections of the MRD, it will still have to do so in a manner that accommodates the politicians' perspective as well.

There are three aspects which can create difficulties in the "long march" to civilianisation. The first difficulty can be in the realm of foreign policy where a host of issues, either separately or collectively, could conceivably create serious problems for the government. These include the Afghanistan issue and the still abortive attempts for a diplomatic break-through in the Geneva talks; the possibility of military pressure from India, given that Mrs. Gandhi faced with serious internal difficulties might need a convenient diversion and excessive pressure from America on the nuclear question as well as on the Gulf issue. In the latter instance, should the Gulf War take a turn where the Saddam regime is in the process of disintegrating, the Americans might be tempted to intervene. In this situation, they would put pressure on Pakistan to go along with their military moves. A government policy to withstand these pressures would require a clear perception of the national interest, firm leadership and an ability to forge a national consensus based on popular support on these foreign policy issues. At the moment, such a national consensus is sadly lacking.

Cosmetic Civilianisation

The next difficulty is the most tricky one in this "opening the lid" process: how to change roles without tripping up in the process? Although no basic change of the status quo is envisaged by the powers that be, even cosmetic civilianisation is bound to present problems. Here the present regime presents a contrast to that of Ayub Khan. While the strategic objectives of both converge, the tactics differ radically. Ayub Khan also wanted to continue in office indefinitely, but he quickly dispensed with Martial Law and delinked

the army from civil administration by building up his own political base. Four years after the 1958 takeover, the new status quo was already in place. For the present regime, it has taken almost 7 years just to start this process. Moreover, between now and March 1985, the regime will be playing on a new wicket with a new team.

The third difficulty in this process is the modus vivendi which the government evolves with the MRD--particularly the PPP which remains its most important opponent. The regime is conscious of this need as indicated by General Arif's discussions with Air Marshal Asghar Khan and by the release of Benazir Bhutto. Even the PPP seems to have softened its attitude towards the regime. There was the famous "let bygones be bygones" overture from Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and the interview by Benazir Bhutto on British television where she, very significantly, kept open the option of participating in any sort of elections arranged by the regime. The PPP's change of heart has come about because its own strategy to change the status quo has failed. Initially, it banked on the "counter-coup theory" which was supposed to set things right via a change of face. Recently, the exiled PPP leader Mustafa Khar has been claiming sponsorship of the abortive January 1984 Lahore episode which led to the arrest of a number of middle-ranking personnel.

The regime needs to understand that it cannot entirely "go it alone" on the political field. Even if there is grudging acceptance of non-party polls by most political forces, including sections of the MRD, it should try to incorporate the political elements in the proposed framework. In this regard, release of political heavyweights of all hues--Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Rasul Bux Paleeji--is a necessary first step. Already the people have waited too long for the restoration of a representative political process--be it, in content, a controlled process, as seems likely, since at least it would have a civilian face--plus a minimum of some democratic trappings. Otherwise, the comments of one cynic that after Islamising Pakistan via interest-free banking, the regime is determined to give this country election-free politics, will remain apt!

CSO: 4600/457

TRADERS INVITED TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR JOINT VENTURES

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 3 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] The leader of Saudi business delegation, Syed Mohammad Ali Attalah, yesterday invited Pakistan entrepreneurs to join hands with their Saudi counterparts in the industrialisation of the kingdom.

Speaking at a luncheon meeting organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry at a local hotel, he said that Saudi budget announced on Sunday, had laid emphasis on industrialisation of the kingdom. The industry-oriented budget had made it obligatory on their part to go all out for industrialisation.

The leader said that commerce which dominated Saudi economy would give way to industrialisation. He expressed the hope of concentrating their full attention towards industrialisation.

Stating that Saudi Arabia was a free market, he said: "It is the day of strong competition." He said that the Islami Shariah was in force in Saudi Arabia and competitive market was in line with the Islamic principles

Syed Attallah referred to the strong brotherly ties binding Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and said that it was not based on any expediency.

He prayed for the stability, integrity and prosperity of the two brotherly countries.

The President of the Federation, Mr. Saifullah Khan Paracha, presented a crest of the Federation to the leader and a packet of gift to each member of the delegation.

Earlier in his welcome speech the Federation Chief stressed on concentrating more on setting up of industries on joint venture basis in areas like agro-based industries, meat processing units, manufacture of soaps and detergents, sulphuric acid, cement, insecticides. He said that there was also vast scope for the development of large scale farming for cultivation of rice, vegetables, fruits and poultry.

He pleaded for providing preferential tariff arrangements on a reciprocal basis for the promotion of joint ventures.

Mr. Paracha said that the need for larger collaboration lied also in the fields of sophisticated products for export, industrial by-products, electrical goods, electronics, energy development and energy conservation. "Where technology is not available with Pakistan, the area could be expanded to make it a triangular collaboration," he added.

The Federation President said that there was bright scope for Saudi participation in the Export Processing Zone Karachi for setting up hundred per cent export oriented units for the Middle East market.

He said that measures such as conclusion of an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation on the incomes of the national carriers of the two countries were done in 1980 when called for.

Meets Habib

Syed Mohammad Ali Attallah held a meeting with Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Mr Hamid D. Habib here yesterday.

The Chairman, EPB, explained the delegation various steps including establishment of commercial courts, established by the Government to prevent possibilities of malpractices by the exporters.

The two sides had detailed discussions on the possibilities of increasing the volume of trade and to identify areas of joint ventures between Saudi Arabian and Pakistani businessmen.

They also discussed various difficulties presently being faced by the businessmen of two countries about preshipment arrangements and trade disputes.

Furthermore, ways and means of overcoming these difficulties were done in 1980 when called for.

CSO: 4600/478

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH BAHRAIN FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 18 Mar 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] ISLAMABAD, March 17--Pakistan and Bahrain signed here today a joint agreement identifying a number of areas for collaboration between the countries in economic, commercial, technical and educational fields.

The joint agreement was signed at the conclusion of three-day meeting of Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Committee which concluded here today. Mr Essa Abdullah Burshaid, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance and National Economy of Bahrain and the Secretary-General Economic Affairs Division, Mr Ejaz Ahmed Naik, signed the statement on behalf of their respective governments.

The two sides reviewed the development of trade between Pakistan and Bahrain and agreed that in order to increase trade between the two countries contacts between businessmen of the respective sides should be encouraged and expanded.

Possibilities of further increasing the export of fruits, vegetables and wheat to Bahrain were discussed and it was agreed that there were potentials to increase the export of these items to Bahrain.

Import of Wheat

The delegation of Bahrain expressed its desire to import wheat from Pakistan to meet its annual requirement of about 20,000 tons of wheat. The Pakistan delegation stated that a representative of PASSCO would be sent to Bahrain to contact the Bahrain Flour Mill Company in this regard.

The Bahraini delegation expressed interest in the field of manpower planning and development, manpower statistics, wage policy, training of instructors and apprentices, rural women's training and development, treatment of juveniles and handicapped persons. The Pakistan side agreed to offer assistance to Bahrain in preparing manpower plan: laying down the methodology for collection, tabulation and analysis of manpower statistics and in conducting surveys for regular collection of these statistics: training of instructors and apprentices and developing syllabi and training of skilled workers in vocational institutions.

The two sides agreed for exchanging students of the two countries. Modalities of these exchanges would be worked out between the Ministries of Education of the two countries.

Pakistan side informed that the two national institutes of public administration could impart training to middle level public servants of Bahrain in development administration. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics could also help Bahrain Government in preparing output models and also provide research facilities in the field of development economics.

It was agreed by the two sides that Pakistan Automobile Corporation's technical team would visit Bahrain to examine the possibility of using Bahrain aluminum for extrusion, pressure die casting, sheet metal production etc.

Pakistan side informed the Bahrain delegation that an invitation has been extended by the Chairman of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the President of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry to send a trade delegation to Pakistan. The Pakistan side also informed the Bahrain side that the Federation was holding an industrial trade fair in Karachi in November this year and the Bahrain has been invited to participate in the fair

The Bahraini side expressed interest in the opening of the Bahrain National Bank in Pakistan. The Pakistan side agreed to this proposal and stated that the Bahraini Bank may be asked to submit an official request in this regard.

The leader of the Bahrain delegation expressed his thanks for the warm welcome accorded to him and the members of his delegation and hoped that the bilateral relations between the two countries would further grow as Bahrain could gain considerably from Pakistan's experience in the field of economic planning and development.

CSO: 4600/459

FRENCH TEAM OFFERS HELP FOR PROJECTS IN SIND

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The visiting six-member French Team of industrialists have shown willingness to cooperate in the development of water supply, transport and irrigation in Sind.

Headed by a former French Ambassador in Pakistan, Michel Lengendre, the team held meeting with the Chief Economist of Sind Government and senior officials of the Provincial government yesterday.

While outlining the objectives, size and priorities of the Sixth Five-Year Plan for Sind, the Chief Economist told the French Team that the Provincial Government was generally involved in infra-structure development of different sectors.

He also spoke about the Special Development Programme for Karachi and the response received from World Bank and other donor agencies to finance it on soft terms loans.

The leader of the French Team Lengendre said the mission represented one of the biggest industrial groups in Europe engaged in wide ranging activities and handling projects in over 60 countries of the world.

The group, he said, was mainly interested in private sector investment and collaboration.

The French Team also held meetings with the Chairman of Sui Gas Transmission Company F. K. Khilji and Chairman Karachi Gas Company Tariq Hamid Khan during which Lengendre explained the assistance which mission could provide in gas and petroleum industry in Pakistan.

The French team will meet today the local businessmen at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry at 2.45 p.m.

CSO: 4600/459

ZAKAT DISTRIBUTION FIGURES FOR SIND CITED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Apr 84 p 8

[Excerpt] HYDERABAD, March 31: An amount of Rs. 42 crore was distributed among Zakat 'mustahiqeen' in Sind during the last four years.

This was stated by the Chairman, Sind Zakat Council, Mr Justice Naeemuddin, while speaking at a special meeting of the city Zakat and Ushr Sub-Division Committee, Hyderabad, at a local hotel here.

Out of this amount, Rs. 27.5 crore were distributed in Hyderabad and Sukkur Divisions while only Rs. 4.5 crore were distributed in Karachi Division.

He pointed out that the huge amount was distributed in Hyderabad and Sukkur Divisions as the number of 'mustahiqeen' was larger in the rural areas.

The Council was trying to distribute Zakat fund judiciously and without any discrimination of caste, creed or colour, he added.

The Council chief called upon the members of local Zakat and Ushr committees to try to reduce the number of 'mustahiqeen' in their areas, so that they could be rehabilitated permanently.

In Sind, he said, about seven thousand local Zakat and Ushr committees were actively functioning. The records of 12 local Zakat committees out of 615 were found in order, he added.

Mr Justice Naeemuddin further said that a large number of people in these organisations were working honestly and with dedication.

The meeting was also attended by the Chairman, District Zakat and Ushr Committee, Hyderabad, Maulana Syed Wasi Mazhar Naqvi.

CSO: 4600/478

BETTER TRADE, ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE HOPED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 20 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: 'Collaboration with France']

[Text] The leader of the visiting French private industrialists' delegation, Mr. Michael Legendre, expressed the hope that Pakistani and French industrialists could cooperate in several fields for the mutual benefit. Speaking at a meeting with local businessmen at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi, he identified that the area in which cooperation could be extended--electro-chemicals, agriculture, locomotives, construction, engineering, off-shore pipeline, and electricity.

Like other industrialised nations of the West, Pakistan has close cooperation with France in economic fields which has the potentiality to increase with the passage of time. As the members of the French delegation said, Pakistan and French companies have already worked together in the Middle East and this experience could prove helpful in further undertaking joint projects abroad as well as within Pakistan. In the fields of agriculture and livestock, Pakistan could benefit from the French experience. France can provide higher technology. What is more, the field of electricity has also a great potential for cooperation. The leader of the French delegation also explained in detail some of the attractive offers and assistance that the French entrepreneurs can provide to Pakistan, particularly in the field of gas and petroleum industry.

As the French economic cooperation with Pakistan is expected to accelerate, we may recall the visit of the French Foreign Minister, Mr. Claude Cheysson, to Pakistan last year which, in fact, opened a new chapter in economic, political and cultural relations between the two countries. This was the first visit of a French dignitary to Pakistan during the last 18 years. The fields covered during the negotiations were trade, construction of electrical sub-stations and telegraph, transport and industries, particularly cement and nuclear technology. Imports from France are capital goods, industrial raw materials and some food items.

Exports to France from Pakistan are limited which need to be reviewed. As pointed out by the French Foreign Minister, the balance of trade is in favour of France. In 1981-82, France imported Rs. 606 million worth of goods from Pakistan, while its exports were of the value of Rs. 854 million. The trade

gap of Rs. 248 million was not as substantial as in previous years when the gap was to the tune of Rs. 886 million and Rs. 1.5 billion in 1980-81 and 1979-80 respectively. It is hoped that the trade gap will be reduced further with the possibilities of new trade between the two countries. There are possibilities of further cooperation in the field of building small vessels and manufacture of ship containers, chemical and fertilizer production, collaboration in compressor technology, in petroleum, coal mining and construction of power plants in the private sector. There are prospects and scope of transfer of technology of the latest designs of carriages and electrification of the Khanewal-Karachi railway line.

Exports from Pakistan to France can be increased. There are restrictions on the import of rice from Pakistan. These restrictions should be removed or, at least, relaxed. Pakistan can supply fine quality rice to France according to its requirement. Secondly, there are quota restrictions on the import of cotton textiles into EEC countries. These should be removed or, at least, the quota increased. It may be noted that Pakistani textiles are very popular in France. There are some other items of cotton textiles, the utilisation of which is painfully slow.

In June last year, Pakistan and France signed an agreement on reciprocal promotion and protection of investment. The agreement stipulates a number of measures aimed at strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries and to create favourable conditions for French investment in Pakistan and Pakistani investment in France. The provisions include full and complete protection and safety of investments made by the nationals or companies of the two countries. It is also a matter of satisfaction that Franco-Pakistan annual bilateral talks were held in Paris recently in a cordial atmosphere and matters of mutual interests were discussed, besides a general exchange of views on global and regional issues. It was agreed that the bilateral cooperation should be further enlarged, specially in the cultural, scientific and technical fields, for which another joint meeting will be held in Paris on April 9-10.

France has been an active supporter of Pakistan. As a member of the Aid-to-Pakistan Consortium, France twice supported Pakistan's request for debt re-scheduling and until 1982 it had extended loans worth 520 million dollars for various projects. The State credits have been advanced on easy terms carrying an interest of 3 per cent and an amortisation period of 25 year.

In view of the cordial and friendly relations that exist between the two countries, it is hoped that France will not only increase the quantum of imports from this country, it will also see to it that the balance of trade, which is in favour of France, is reduced in the near future.

POLICY SAID EVOLVED FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN EDIBLE OIL

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 10 Mar 84 p 2

[Text]

A policy package has been evolved in the current Five-Year Plan to ensure self-sufficiency in edible oils in the shortest possible time in the country.

According to a report published in a Banking Journal, Pakistan's edible oil import bill will continue to escalate, if positive efforts were not made to improve the production notwithstanding the improvement or deterioration in global oil conditions.

It is estimated that if the fingers are kept crossed, the import cost of edible oil at present exchange rate will go up to Rs. 8 billion in 1988.

The gravity of the situation had alarmed the planners and a comprehensive plan has thus been formulated for implementation during the plan period. There seems to be no technical, ecological or economic reason why Pakistan should not meet its requirement of edible oil domestically.

It is hoped by the end of the plan period, the country would be catering the domestic demand to the extent of 40 per cent. The production of oil seeds would grow by 7.3 per cent annually and by the end of the plan, the country would be producing 2,853 thousand tones of oil seeds including 2066 thousand tones of cotton seed, 350 thousand tonnes of non-traditional oil seeds and 437 thousand tones of traditional oil seeds.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY FOR JOINT VENTURE TO MAKE OIL DRILLING RIGS

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 3 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Negotiations on a joint venture undertaking between the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KSEW) and three American companies for the construction of offshore oil drilling rigs here are now at "an advanced stage", the Shipyard's Managing Director, Vice-Admiral Ahmed Zamir, said here yesterday.

Addressing members of the Rotary Club of Karachi at a luncheon meeting here in the afternoon he said initially one offshore oil drilling rig is to be fabricated for the Pakistan Petroleum Ltd. (PPL), but a contract for this has yet to be negotiated.

The joint venture agreement between the KSEW and an American firm will provide for manufacture of the bulk of the oil drilling rig at the shipyards, engineering and foundry division here, with such parts as the winch, wires, motor and drill being imported from America.

The oil drilling rig project, if and when concluded, is to be a multi-million U.S. dollar job.

Vice-Admiral Zamir said the KSEW's capability of undertaking such a project demonstrated the professionalism of its engineering and foundry division, which fully matches that of its sister departments, the ship-building and ship-repairing sections.

These three departments jointly make the KSEW a versatile organization capable of undertaking highly diversified projects, including ship fabrication, ship repair and construction of sugar and cement mills, boilers, bridges power houses etc.

The KSEW chief stated that in view of the worldwide slump in the shipping industry--one of the effects of which has been a drastic cutback in the orders for new ship construction--his organisation was making renewed efforts to expand the operations of its heavy engineering and foundry department.

He said the KSEW possessed the most up-to-date foundry in the country with the capacity of manufacturing such things as cylinder heads for cars and brake drums for buses.

In connection he noted that last year the KSEW had signed an agreement with the Karachi Road Transport Corporation for the manufacture of 2,000 brake drums for omni-buses plying the city's roads. This involved both casting and machining of brake drums.

Vice-Admiral Zamir said the ship-breaking industry in Pakistan--which ranks second in the world--was now facing a crisis due to reduction in the price of steel billets and the recently-imposed 35 per cent increase in duty on scrap.

There was also a parallel crisis affecting shipping with the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation vessels hunting about for cargo.

In these circumstances all organisations and parties connected with shipping, ship-building and repairs and ship-breaking had to demonstrate redouble efficiency in order to survive the worldwide recession.

The function, which took place at a local hotel, was attended by a large number of Rotary members.

CSO: 4600/478

CANADA TO FINANCE SECOND PHASE OF OIL, GAS PROJECT

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 3 Apr 84 p 10

[Text] ISLAMABAD, April 2: A six-member oil and gas sector mission, headed by Mr A. Vinette, of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), called on Dr Muhammad Asad Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources here today.

Dr Muhammad Asad Khan appreciated the CIDA assistance to Oil and Gas Development Corporation over the last eight years. He informed the delegation about the energy pattern in the country. Almost 37 per cent of the energy requirement of Pakistan is being met by oil alone which is mostly imported against high foreign exchange expenditure.

He stated that the Government of Pakistan attaches high priority to the exploration and development of oil and gas resources. He pointed out areas of assistance and highlighted the need for acquisition of new technology and equipment particularly in the field of production stimulation techniques and sour gas technology.

CIDA has so far provided four loans of Canadian dollars 32.0 million and grant of Canadian dollar 8.16 million OGDC. The achievements under these aid programmes have been quite satisfactory and also were confirmed by the CIDA evaluation mission during late 1983.

The mission informed the Minister that CIDA in principle has given approval to finance oil and gas phase-II project for supply of Canadian equipment and technology to the tune of Canadian dollars 39.8 million including grant of Canadian dollars 15.4 million and interest-free loan of Canadian dollars 24.4 million. The loan is repayable over a period of 50 years.

The project is aimed at improving the present operational level of OGDC in the field of exploration, drilling, production and processing of oil and gas. It shall provide OGDC with the latest technology of wells stimulation to increase the recovery production of oil and gas from the existing and future wells of OGDC at least cost.

CSO: 4600/478

NORWAY URGED TO HELP IN HYDEL PLANS

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 20 Mar 84 p 8

[Text] LAHORE, March 19--Norway which has a wholly hydel-oriented power generation, could help Pakistan in setting up small hydel schemes, for optimum utilization of irrigation water as well as generation of electrical energy.

This was stated by Chairman, WAPDA, Maj-Gen Dr Ghulam Safdar Butt while talking to a four-member high-level Norwegian delegation headed by Mr T. Selvig which called on him at WAPDA House yesterday. The Norwegian Ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Nica Fougner was also present on this occasion, says a WAPDA Press release.

The WAPDA chief added that Pakistan could learn a lot from Norway's experience in efficiently running small hydel schemes. Norway, he said, could transfer relevant technology to its Pakistani counterparts in the implementation of small hydel schemes particularly in the Northern Area of this country and in Azad Kahsmir valley. The Norwegian delegation expressed its willingness to give due consideration to all the useful proposals with regard to cooperation between two countries in the field of hydel schemes.

The delegation members also discussed the implementation status of WAPDA's secondary transmission and grid telecommunication project for which Norway has already allocated a sum of 110 million Norwegian kroners. It may be mentioned that with the technical assistance of Norway, WAPDA has undertaken to provide telecommunication facilities to its 164 grid stations being constructed under the secondary transmission and grid project. During the course of the meeting, the pace of work on this project, which is likely to be completed by 1986 also came under discussion.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Abdul Fehman, Managing Director (Project Monitoring) and Mian Saleem Hasan, Chief Engineer (Telecommunications) WAPDA.

Later on, the delegation members called on the Managing Director (Power), Mr Mohammad Ayub Sadozai and discussed matters of mutual interest.

CSO: 4600/459

MARKETS FOR FRUIT, VEGETABLES TO BE EXPLORED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] ISLAMABAD, March 17--A package of measures for improvement in the production, processing, storage and marketing of fruits and vegetables in the country was discussed at the meeting of the National Fruit and Vegetable Board, held here today under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Vice-Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua.

He said that the sixth five-year plan envisaged almost doubling of fruit and vegetable production in the country during the plan period.

Discussing modalities for achieving the objective of increased production of fruit and vegetables, the Board resolved that a fruit-map be prepared by the Agricultural Research Council to facilitate identification of the potential areas of fruit production. The farmers should be provided incentives for growing more fruits and vegetables, the supply of quality seeds, plant saplings and pesticides be regulated and the existing fiscal measures be moulded to create a favourable atmosphere for the growers pushing them to step in increased production, the Board recommended.

With a view to avoid seasonal glut in production of certain fruits and vegetables, the Board decided that the possibility of prospective import markets in addition to traditional fruit import markets be explored.

An experts delegation would visit the prospective markets in this connection to carry out studies for scope of Pakistani fruit exports. A committee was also set up by the Board to explore possibilities for the export of fresh vegetables.

CSO: 4600/459

GOVERNMENT URGED NOT TO 'RESCUE' COTTON GINNERS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 10 Mar 84 p 2

[Editorial: "No Need for Costly Rescue Operation"]

[Text] Cotton ginneries have been appealing to the Government that the Cotton Export Corporation be instructed to lift 5.19 lakh bales of unsold cotton lying with them, at the prevailing (high) market prices. To an extent this means that possible losses should be incurred by the Cotton Export Corporation. Profits must have been made much more than normal on the sales made to the mills at higher rates and now that stocks have piled up and reaction has set in, the consequences should be accepted as part of the game. Were the CEC to buy at the prevailing prices, the bulk of it will have to be compulsorily sold to the mills at arbitrary prices, depriving them of the imported supplies which are demanded to be stopped. The timely step of cotton imports is sought to be negated.

More fairly, it may be suggested that the ginneries should be prepared to supply all the cotton that the CEC could export at the prices it could fetch. Without this preparedness on the part of the ginneries, their business losses should not be passed on either to the CEC or the industry. Their suggestions mean nothing else. May be that they should not have played any part in accentuating the scarcity and eschewed all profiteering that may have affected the industry. Now at this stage to seek to utilise the CEC to help hit the industry again is peculiar and naive.

It is claimed that upto March 1, the ginning units had reported arrival of 24,97,689 bales. Textile mills lifted 18,11,796 bales and the Cotton Export Corporation purchased 1,67,175 bales. 5.19 lakh bales are unsold. Of the 649 ginning factories, 169 factories are still working.

The purpose of allowing cotton imports and the concessions allowed were for the purpose of bringing down the high rates which were not free from artificial factors. It would be very inadvisable to undo the stability that has been achieved in a calculated manner. It may be that when firm indications of the situation getting under control are reliably available, changes in policy may be considered and then in terms of maintained advantages and not to guarantee profits to any party or underwrite their losses.

It is also argued that if bailed out, the ginning units could make final payments to the growers and adjust bank advances. This is not so business like an argument except passing on the consequences. In the final analysis, who is to pay? Ginners claim to be so resourceless that their business risks should be borne by other shoulders. To understand the issue more equitably, let it be considered if anybody would have been spared in any way if the situation had developed otherwise.

The Government has the opportunity to review the existing policies and make revisions which automatically take care of the fluctuating factors. Nothing should be done in this case to create hardship for the industry or get it to subsidise the ginners, directly or indirectly. Most of the ginneries are proprietary concerns. The shareholders of the textile industry are not to be deprived in any way. Enterprising insurance companies should examine the possibility of insurance cover to the ginners and decide how and when protection can be extended and on what terms and in what circumstances. It is certain that risks of the type as in the present case would not be covered. Nor is the Government obliged to mount a costly rescue operation.

CSO: 4600/457

WOOD PROCESSING PLANT STARTS PRODUCTION

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 20 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] ISLAMABAD, March 19--Pakistan's first forest complex at Chakdara in Swat, capable of processing wood and producing plywood and chipboard on a big scale, has gone into commercial production.

Polish Ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Wladyslaw Neneman told newsmen at a Press conference today that with the departure of the Polish technicians next week helped install Polish machinery at the complex. It would be entirely manned now by Pakistani workers. Four Polish experts were training Pakistani engineers and technicians in various workshops of the complex for the last one year.

Chakdara Forest Complex has been commissioned in about 15 years since an agreement was signed between Pakistan and Poland for its establishment in 1968

Antony Borysiewicz, chief of the Polish team, who was also present at the Press conference, said that the delay in the execution of the project occurred on account of change of site from Dir to Chakdara. The change was necessitated by logistic problems relating to raw material from forests.

The Polish team chief said that Pakistan Government has also launched an afforestation plan to replenish the tree stocks being consumed by the complex.

Chakdara complex is capable of processing 100,000 meter wood, 10,000 meter plywood and 20,000 meter chipboard every year.

Machinery worth 28 million pounds was supplied by Poland which has already been repaid by export of Pakistani goods.

CSO: 4600/459

RAILWAYS TO EXPAND MARKET

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 10 Mar 84 p 2

[Text]

LAHORE, March 9: The Pakistan Railway is trying to get new contracts to expand its work in the international market after successful completion of laying 160 km long railway track from Dammam to Haffof in Saudi Arabia at a cost of 105 million dollars.

The General Manager of Pakistan Railways, said here today that this track would be handed over to the Saudi Government by the end of current fiscal year.

The railway construction company "Railcop" he said, was also negotiating with Iran for the repair of Iran Railways' diesel electric locomotive and had already sent its team there.

It was also getting the contract for building a new diesel locomotive factory in Bangladesh, he added.

The General Manager said that the Pakistan Railway has bid in collaboration with a foreign firm laying rail track in Egypt.

He said Pakistan Railways wanted to provide security of job and reasonable wages to its employees so that the production of railways could increase.

Without the satisfaction of the workers, the production and efficiency could not increase, he observed.

He said that Pakistan Railways was also providing assistance to Zimbabwe, Niger, Nigeria and Tanzania and had already sent trained technical persons to these countries.

He said that Pakistan Railways was expecting orders of wagons from Sri Lanka and hoped that during the Sixth Five-Year Plan railways would have a considerable increase in its exports.

CSO: 4600/457

COUNTRY TO ASSEMBLE MICROCOMPUTERS SOON

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 29 Mar 84 p 5

[Excerpt] LAHORE, March 28: Dr Mohammad Afzal, Federal Minister for Education, today said that Pakistan would start assembling micro-computers within the next couple of years for which arrangements were being made at the Computers Training Centre, Islamabad.

He was inaugurating a Computer Centre at the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Lahore.

He said that we had a programme for the manufacture of micro and bigger computers in the next five to 10 years for which feasibility study had already been prepared. This task would be undertaken with the cooperation of the local industry.

The Federal Minister said that the Education Ministry was also starting from June 1, 1984, microcomputer courses in six model schools of Islamabad from Class 1 so that the future generation grew with technology.

Dr Afzal said that if a child knew how to operate a computer, he would certainly know how to innovate it over a period of five to 10 years. That was what, he added, the country required of its future generation.

He said that when the Government had introduced new mathematics in schools, there were a lot of noises for its withdrawal. Similarly, he added, there used to be objections of all new technologies, but later the people started adjusting themselves to these technologies.

Video Games

He said that there was a lot of hue and cry in the country over the introduction of video games on the pretext that the new generation was getting spoiled. But, he added, there was no denying the fact that these games had brought a new technology in the country and the machines for video games were now being assembled in Karachi. Dr Afzal congratulated the Chairman and staff of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Lahore, for taking the lead in the Board by establishing a Computer Centre. He said that the establishment of a Computer Centre was a landmark in the history of the Board.

MINISTER SAYS STUDENT COUNCILS ALREADY FORMED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 29 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] LAHORE, March 28. Federal Education Minister Dr. Mohammad Afzal today said that in some universities and colleges the country Students councils had already been formed while in others the process was continuing.

Talking to newsmen here, Dr. Mohammad Afzal said that the rules for the formation of students councils had already been framed and intimated to the education institutions.

In reply to a question, he said that it would not be fair to say that the students union had been banned. What had been banned was the politics in the universities and other educational institutions, he clarified.

He said that the Government had given an alternative system of Students Councils to correct the direction of students activities. He added that the students should concentrate on academic activities rather than indulging in politics.

He said that the students of today were the future of the Government was aimed at their welfare.

He said that the formation of Students Councils in other educational institutions had been delayed due to the examinations being held in some provinces.

CSO: 4600/478

JI LEADER URGES PARTIES TO UNITE TO END MARTIAL LAW

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Mar 84 p 8

[Article by Murtaza Malik]

[Text] PESHAWAR, March. 9--Secretary-General of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami Kazi Hussain Ahmed has said that the first and the foremost task before the political parties should be the end of Martial Law and restoration of democracy through any available force other than a direct clash with the army. The army, he suggested, should be completely impartial.

Addressing hurriedly called Press conference here today, he told a questioner that his party's stand had always been that there should be Islamic democratic government in the country and it was very sincere about it. He demanded that the government must immediately remove the 1973 Constitution and hold elections on party basis. In this context, he invited all the parties without exception to create mutual understanding on the vital national issues. That, he observed, will help give the people a positive programme and get rid of dictatorship.

He said that the chances of greater unity among the political parties were brighter than ever before and this he attributed to the prevailing uncertain situation in the country. The J.I. leader also condemned the police action against the students on Thursday in Peshawar and demanded that the ban on student unions be lifted, arrested students released and those rusticated should be taken back before it was too late. Such action, he feared, could lead to serious reaction. He also called for the removal of the Federal Education Minister.

CSO: 4600/457

BRIEFS

JI DENIES HAND IN MURDER--ATTOCK--Qazi Hussain Ahmed Secretary-General defunct Jamaat-Islami has categorically denied that Jamaat had any hand in the assassination of late Arbab Sikandar Khan Khalil, a former Governor of NWFP. While talking to newsmen here last night, the Jamaat leader said that "Arbab Sikander was a dedicated Muslim and a simple person". We regard him and there is no truth in the allegation that Jamaat had any hand in his assassination. Qazi Hussain Ahmed said that his party will also make efforts to normalise its relations with the defunct National Democratic Party (NDP). He said that "we all belong to the same society and have personal relations". Commenting on a Press statement of Kanwar Qutabuddin, Chief Organiser of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League (Pagara Group), the Jamaat leader said that launching direct dialogue with Babrak Karmel regime was totally against the interest of our nation. His party was not in favour of this proposal, he added. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Mar 84 p 6]

TRADE TEAMS TO GO ABROAD--The Export Promotion Bureau has finalised the programme for the visit of three trade delegations to foreign countries in April to explore markets for a variety of products and goods. According to official sources a delegation headed by President's Advisor for Internal Trade and Business Coordination Sheikh Ishrat Ali will leave here on April 2 for a 15 day visit to Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea. The second delegation would comprise textile manufacturers which would visit Iran for a week. A tanners delegation will also visit Iran, Turkey and Greece during the month of April. Apart from these three delegations, the Bureau is giving final touches for the visit of two delegations to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji islands during the next half of 1984. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 9 Mar 84 p 8]

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THAILAND--ISLAMABAD, March 17--Pakistan and Thailand signed an agreement in Bangkok yesterday which provides a frame work for commercial exchanges between the two countries. The commercial exchanges between the two countries registered five-fold increase over the past one year. The agreement was signed by the Foreign Minister of Thailand Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila and Pakistan ambassador Akmal Matinuddin on behalf of their respective governments. The signing of the agreement was described by the Thai Foreign Minister as a further step in boosting the friendly relations between Pakistan and Thailand. Pakistan ambassador described the agreement as further mile-stone in the friendly and cordial relations between the two countries. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 18 Mar 84 p 1]

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